DAMLAAGTE SOLAR PV FACILITY, NEAR PARYS IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT REPORT

In fulfilment of Section 24N(7)(d) of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) and Regulation 34 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN No. 982 of 2014), as amended.

- ⇒ EA NO. 12/14/16/3/3/1/2432 (Dated 19 November 2022)
- ⇒ EA NO: EMB/11(i),24(ii),28,4(b)(i)(ee), 12(b)(ii),18(b)(i}(ee)/23/30) F(Dated: 06 November 2023)
- ⇒ Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) For The Development And Expansion For Overhead Electricity Transmission And Distribution Infrastructure: Proposed Grid Connection Infrastructure, Damlaagte Solar Pv Facility: 132 Kv Transmission Line (Dated: September 2021)
- ⇒ Generic Environmental Management Programme (Empr) For The Development And Expansion Of Substation Infrastructure For The Transmission And Distribution Of Electricity: Generic Damlaagte Solar Pv Facility Substation.(Dated: September 2021)

AUDIT DATE: 25 NOVEMBER 2025

PREPARED BY:

KULANI ENERGY (PTY) LTD.

CDH BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR

1 PROTEA PLACE

SANDTON

2196

TSHOKOLOGO MANGWALE

TEL: +27 (011) 462 2022

EMAIL: tshokologom@kulanienergy.com

PREPARED ON BEHALF OF

DAMLAAGTE SOLAR PV FACILITY

4th FLOOR, MERIENDAHL HOUSE

NEWLANDS on MAIN

CAMPGROUND, CLAREMONT, 7708

CORRIE HENNING

TEL: +27 (0) 27 4700 107

EMAIL: Corrie.Henning@mainstreamrp.com

Document Control

Version Control

	Date	Overview of Changes	Author
0.1	December 2025	Create report	Tshokologo Mangwale/ Zwivhuya Ratshilingani
0.2	February 2026	Review	Thinga Nethanani
0.3	February 2026	Authorise	Corrie Henning

Distribution List

Name	Email address
Corrie Henning	Corrie.Henning@mainstreamrp.com

Required Approvals

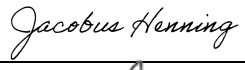
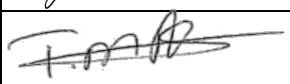
Name	Position	Signature	Date
Corrie Henning	Site HSSE Manager		06 February 2026
Tshokologo Mangwale	Environmental Officer		06 February 2026

Table of Contents

LIST OF TABLES

List of Figures

Acronyms

CLO	Community Liaison Officer
DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme Report
EO	Environmental Officer
ECO	Environmental Control Officer
EMI	Electromagnetic interference
EWT	Endangered Wildlife Trust
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
MF	Monitoring Forum
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
T	Tower
SABS	South African Bureau of Standards
WUL	Water Use License

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Damlaagte Solar PV Facility is in its operational phase and comprises of 97.5 megawatt solar power plant located near Parys, in the Free State Province (Figure 1). The facility commenced commercial operations in October 2025.

The approved Environmental Authorisation and Environmental Management Programme outlined the necessary mitigation measures for the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility. These measures addressed potential environmental impacts such as disruption of ecological areas, effects on watercourses and sensitive habitats, impacts on bird and bat populations, disturbance to the local sense of place, visual aesthetics, noise during construction, socio-economic effects, soil erosion and degradation, and impacts on heritage and fossil resources.

Kulani Energy (Pty) Ltd. was appointed to perform the annual external compliance audits to evaluate the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility's compliance with the commitments outlined in the EA and EMPr. These audits also assessed whether the measures in place are sufficient to effectively prevent, manage, and mitigate environmental impacts associated with the facility's operational activities.

The licenses, environmental authorisations and associated amendments that are currently held by the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility Project are listed in **Table 1** .

Table 1: Approved Authorisations And Amendments For The Project

Relevant Government Department	Reference Number	Date Received
Department of Environmental Affairs	EA No. 12/14/16/3/3/1/2432	19 November 2022
Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	EA No: EMB/11(i),24(ii),28,4(b)(i)(ee), 12(b)(ii),18(b)(i}(ee)/23/30	06 November 2023
Department of Environmental Affairs	Generic EMPr-132 KV transmission line	September 2021
Department of Environmental Affairs	Generic EMPr-substation	September 2021

1.2. Assumptions and Limitations

The scope of the External Environmental Compliance Audits was to assess the environmental management practices being implemented during post construction and operational phases within the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility, in accordance with the approved EMPr, the environmental and other authorisations/license/permits issued.

The objective of the compliance audits was to determine whether activities undertaken during the post-construction and operational phases of the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility are compliant with the approved EMPr, Environmental Authorisation, applicable licences and permits, and relevant environmental legislation. In doing so, the compliance audit included the review of the previous assessments, reports, and supporting documentation, as well as interviews with relevant personnel.

The following assumptions and/or limitations are applicable to the audit process and findings:

- This Audit is a post construction representation of the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility Project and the audit period assessed includes **October 2025 – December 2025;**
- Although dates were selected for the site inspection, it must be noted that due to the nature and extent of the operations, findings from the daily site inspections completed throughout each month are included herein were applicable;
- The Damlaagte Solar PV Facility is in the operational phase, and activities relating to construction, closure and decommissioning, and/or rehabilitation, that were not currently occurring on site were deemed "**Not Applicable**";
- Procedures developed by Damlaagte PV Facility (Pty) Ltd /Contractors specifically, are deemed to be appropriately implemented by site personnel as part of the Integrated Management System; and
- Outdated or repealed legislation will be substituted for current and relevant legislation referenced in the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr.

Figure 1: Locality Map of Damlaagte Solar PV Facility

2. Auditors

Table 2: Audit Team Contact Details

Role	Responsible Person	Contact Details
Quality Control and Auditor	Tshokologo Mangwale is a skilled Environmental Auditor and Practitioner with over five years of experience in environmental assessments, legal compliance, and sustainability. As a Senior Environmental Consultant at Kulani Energy, she specialises in EIAs, compliance audits, licensing, and project management for infrastructure, renewable energy, and mining projects. With a BSc in Environmental and Resource Studies and as a Candidate Environmental Assessment Practitioner and Natural Scientist, she demonstrates strong expertise in delivering assessments, managing complex projects, and promoting sustainable practices to advance environmental standards.	Tel: +27 11 462 2022 Fax:+27 86 665 1864 Email: tshokologom@kulanienergy.com
Auditor	Zwivhuya Ratshilingani is a dedicated Junior Environmental Consultant and registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner, with two years of experience in conducting environmental audits, impact assessments, workplace hazard identification, and water use licensing. She holds a BSc in Occupation and Environmental Health, supported by practical involvement in infrastructure projects, environmental compliance, and safety management. Proficient in approval processes, licensing applications, and promote sustainable infrastructure development while ensuring compliance with environmental legislation and safety standards in diverse settings such as mining and urban environments.	Tel: +27 11 462 2022 Fax: +27 86 665 1864 Email: zwivhuyar@kulanienergy.com

3. Audit Methodology

3.1. Information Collation and Review

Kulani Energy reviewed the Environmental Authorisation and approved EMPr as well as other relevant permits, and compiled a checklist that contained the conditions that required compliance assessment. The information verified during the audit includes *inter alia*:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) and any amendments.
- Approved EMPr.
- Environmental Control Officer (ECO) monitoring reports.
- Water Use Licenses (WUL)/GA
- Waste Management Licenses.
- Training materials
- Incident reports, complaints registers,
- Communications/stakeholder engagement plan
- Site layout plans.

3.2. Site Verification

Visual observation and review of relevant documentation were used to assess compliance to the approved EMPr and EA/license/permits. The site assessments were completed on **25 November 2025.** The audit comprised a site inspection and documentation review. During the site assessments, additional documents were collated, information verified, interviews conducted, and photographic evidence captured (**Appendix B – Photographic Evidence**). The following responsible personnel participated in the audit:

- Kulani Energy-Independent Environmental Auditor: Tshokologo Mangwale and Zwivhuya Ratshilingani as the Auditor.
- Damlaagte PV Facility (Pty) Ltd as the auditee with Mainstream Renewable Power (South Africa) Site HSSE Manager: Corrie Henning in attendance.
- Power China Maanda JV Environmental Site Officer: Jefry Nemukula

3.3. Assessment Methodology

Kulani Energy (Pty) Ltd. assessed each of the EA & EMPr conditions per the criteria provided in the **Table 3** below:

Table 3: Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Acc	Description
Compliant	**C**	Full Compliance is when the construction or operational activities comply with the EA and EMPr conditions. No mitigation measures are required where operations comply.
Non-Compliant	**NC**	Non-Compliance is when construction or operational activities are in contravention with the EA and EMPr have the potential to impact on the environment in a detrimental manner. Non-compliance may also be associated with activities breaching legislation.
Not Applicable	**N/A**	Not Applicable is assigned to EA conditions which do not apply to current activities, fall outside the audit period, are duplicates of existing conditions and/or are conditions which must be noted by the holder of authorisation.
Take Note	**T/N**	specific condition not applicable during the audit period but may become applicable and audited in the near future; and/ or specific conditions which provides the Competent Authority certain allowances.

Only conditions in the Non-compliance categories will be given recommendations for rectification. Incident-specific timeframes for rectification will be recommended by Kulani Energy (Pty) Ltd. The timeframe in which proposed recommendations should be implemented will be discussed with the project team to ensure the most effective mitigation is implemented in the earliest practicable timeframe.

4. Audit Findings

Overall percentage compliance to the audit conditions is provided in **Table 4** and the detailed audit findings per condition are presented in **Table 5**.

Please be advised that any conditions that are repetitive or not relevant to the current phase of the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility Project have been excluded from this section.

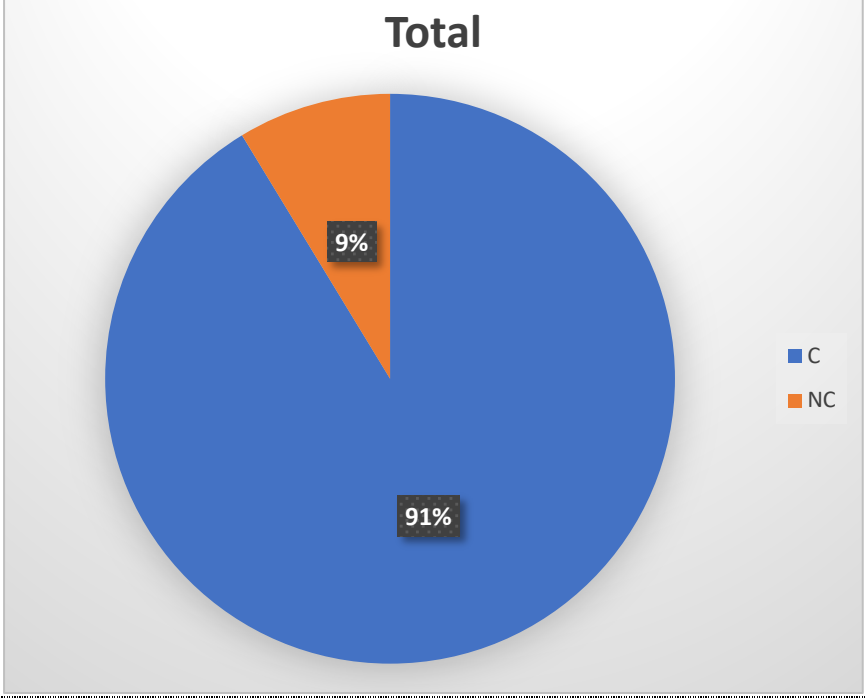
Table 4: Percentage Compliance

Criteria	Commpliance Status	Percentage
Compliant	**C**	98

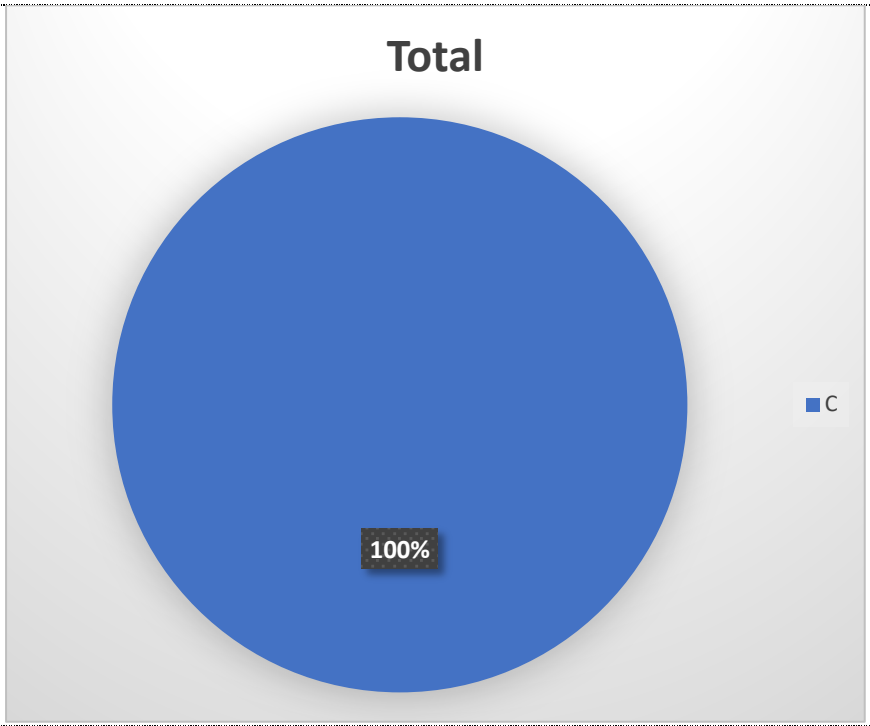
Criteria	Commpliance Status	Percentage
Non-Compliant	**NC**	2

4.1. Overall Compliance Performance

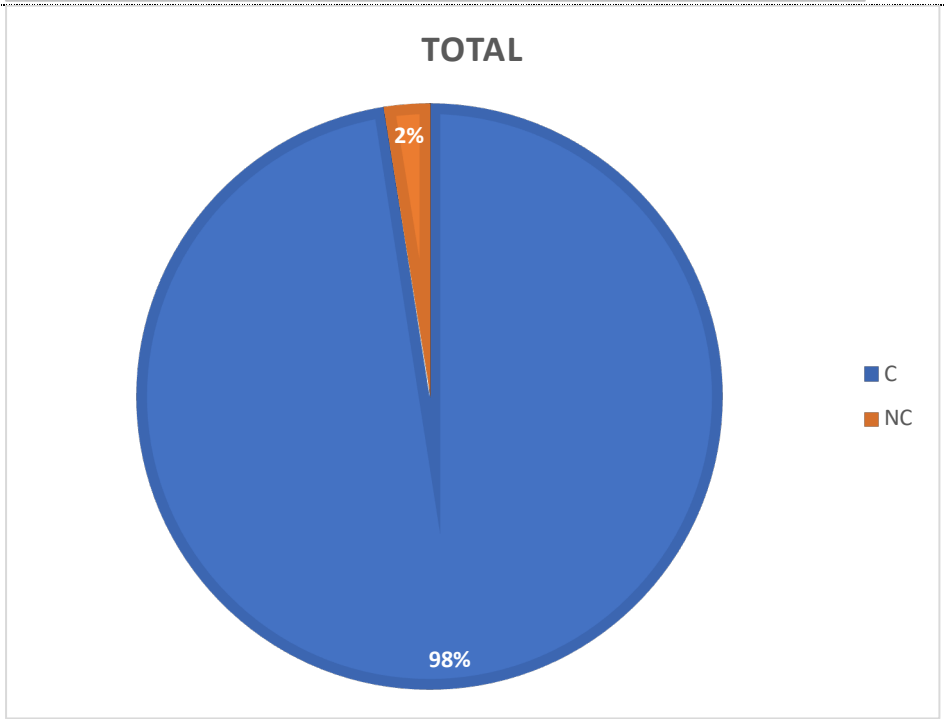
Table 5: Compliance Rating



EA Compliance



EMPr Compliance



Overall Regulation 34 Compliance(EA and EMPr)

The compliance rating for the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility indicates a strong adherence to environmental management standards, with an overall compliance score of 98%. Specifically, the facility achieved an 91% compliance rate for its Environmental Authorisations (EA), reflecting that most regulatory requirements and conditions have been met, though there is room for improvement in fully aligning with all specific stipulations. The Environmental Management Program (EMPr) demonstrated an even higher compliance

rate of 100%, indicating effective implementation of environmental management measures and proactive environmental control practices. This overall compliance score suggests that the facility maintains a solid commitment to environmental stewardship, with consistent adherence to licensing and management requirements, thereby reducing environmental risks and supporting sustainable operations.

Table 6: Re-Issue Of Environmental Authorisation (Reference No:12/14/16/3/3/1/2432) Based on the Minister's Appeal Decision (LSA 216472): For The Damlaagte Solar Pv Facility Grid Connection, Free State Province (Dated: 29 November 2022)

NO.	CONDITION	STATUS	AUDIT OBSERVATIONS (FINDINGS)
SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION			
1	The development of the Damlaagte Solar PV Facility grid connection in the Free State Province, as described above is hereby approved.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
2	Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
3	The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
4	The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
5	Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

6	The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
7	This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.	C	This activity commenced within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
8	Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.	C	Construction has been completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9	Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant.
10	The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and, affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.	C	The holder of the authorisation notified every registered interested and, affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity. A notification email from consultant to the I&APs dated 13 December 2022, was provided as proof that the EA was received from the Department on 01 December 2022.

11	The notification referred to must — 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued. 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request. and 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.	NC	The letter was reviewed and while it specified the date on which the authorisation was issued; however, it did not include information advising the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and also did not provide reasons of the Competent Authority's decision.
COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY			
12	The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No.107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.	C	The activity commenced after the Appeal period lapsed.
MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY			
13	The layout plan included as part of the BAR dated October 2021, is approved.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
14	The EMPrs included as Appendix 7 of the BAR dated October 2021, are approved.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

15	The approved EMPrs must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development. Any updates to these EMPrs must be undertaken in accordance with the relevant legislation.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
16	Changes to the EMPrs must be submitted to this Department for approval before such changes could be effected.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
17	The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPrs should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the Final BAR be discovered.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
18	The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation or EMPr.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
19	The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shoricomings identified in the environmental audit report.	C	The EMPr contains recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20	The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

21	In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
22	The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
MONITORING			

23	The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr. 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities. 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department. 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO. 23.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.	C	An experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) from AMATHEMBA Environmental Management Consulting CC was appointed before construction phase and operational phase of the development to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
RECORDING AND REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT			
24	All documentation e.g. audit monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this Environmental Authorisation, must be submitted to the Director; Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	C	Internal ECO proof of the reports submitted to the Director of Compliance was provided via email to the department. During this audit, we reviewed four consecutive submissions covering August 2025 to November 2025.
25	The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the 'Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.	C	Internal ECO proof of the reports submitted to the Director of Compliance was provided via email to the department. During this audit, we reviewed four consecutive submissions covering August 2025 to November 2025.

26	The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	C	The frequency of auditing and submission of the environmental audit reports is not specified in either the Environmental Authorisation (EA) or the EMPr, and therefore no explicit interval is prescribed. However, it is noted that ECO audits are currently conducted monthly on site.
27	The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.	NC	The external audits were conducted beyond the required 30-day period following the completion of construction.
28	The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the auditing terms of compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.	C	The environmental audit reports were prepared in line with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and the audit was undertaken on 25 November 2025 by Kulani Energy. The report presents the findings relating to compliance with the Environmental Authorisation conditions and the requirements of the approved EMPr.
29	Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.	C	The monthly ECO Reports were provided to the External Auditor upon request on site.
NATIFICATION TO AUTHORITIES			
30	A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.	C	Letter of proof of notification was shared with the auditor, dated 27 July 2023.
OPERATION OF THE ACTIVITY			

31	A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.	C	Letter of proof of notification was shared with the auditor, dated 23 July 2023.
SITE CLOSURE AND DECOMMISSIONING			
32	Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS			
33	The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
34	Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated* (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as “no-go”areas.	C	Fencing was used to dermacate the areas outside of the development
35	All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs.	C	During site verification, the auditor observed that Indigenous grass was used to reclaim disturbed soil.
36	Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.	C	Topsoil generated from all excavation and construction activities was recovered and reinstated during site rehabilitation.
37	An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).	C	Waste management was integrated into the project in line with waste minimisation principles. Measures for waste reduction, re-use and recycling were implemented where feasible. All solid waste was disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008.

38	The holder of this authorisation must take note that no temporary site camps will be allowed outside the footprint of the development area as the establishment of such structures might trigger a listed activity as defined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
39	Borrow materials must be obtained only from authorised and permitted sites. Permits must be kept on site by the ECO.	C	All borrow materials were obtained from authorised and permitted sites. The required permits were kept on site and made available to the auditor.
40	Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources.	C	A chance-find procedure is in place, and no archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work.
41	All declared aliens must be identified and managed in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 {Act No. 43 of 1983). There should be an alien species monitoring and eradication program to prevent encroachment of these problem plants for the duration of the operation.	C	An alien species monitoring and eradication programme was implemented for the duration of the operation. Proof and supporting reports of identification, management actions and monitoring were provided.
GENERAL			
42	The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated October 2021 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.	C	The EAP's recommendations are included in the EMPr currently under audit, which demonstrates a high level of compliance with the measures and conditions.

43	A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying- 431, at the site of the authorised activity. 43.2. to anyone on request; and 43.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.	C	A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, were made available to the auditor upon request.
44	National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

Table 7: Environmental Authorisation (Reference No: Emb/11(i),24(ii),28,4(b)(i)(ee), 12(b)(ii),18(b)(i}(ee)/23/30) for the Proposed Development of Grid Connection Infrastructure for the Authorised Ilikwa and Damlaagte Solar Power Facility (Dated 06 November 2023)

NO.	CONDITION	STATUS	AUDIT OBSERVATIONS (FINDINGS)
SCOPE OF AUTHORISATION			

1.1	Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this document. These conditions form part of the EA and are binding on the holder of the EA.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.2	The holder of the EA shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his or her behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, subcontractor, employee or person rendering a service to the holder of the EA.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.3	The authorised activity may only be carried out on Portion 3 of the Farm Willow Grange No. 246, Farm Damlaagte No. 229, Farm Scafell No 448 and Portion 5 of the Procedeerfontein No. 100 in Ngwathe Local Municipality, as indicated above at the exact site co-ordinates.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.4	Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be affected.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.5	In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations which may result in the holder of the EA to apply for further Authorisation in terms of NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) and the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.6	The holder of the EA must apply for an amendment of the EA with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.7	Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this EA constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

1.8	This EA is valid for a period of 10 (ten) years from the date of issue. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the EA lapses and a new application for an EA must be made.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.9	This EA does not negate the holder of the Authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of this particular activity.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
APPEAL OF AUTHORISATION			
1.10	The holder of the EA must notify every registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this EA, of its decision to authorise the activity.	C	proof of EA notification SMS dated 08 November 2023 was submitted as proof to the auditor.
1.11	1.11 The notification referred must — 1.11.1 specify the date on which the EA was issued. 1.11.2 inform the registered interested and affected parties of the appeal procedure provided for in National Appeal Regulations published in Government Gazette No. 38559 of 12 March 2015; 1.11.3 advise the registered interested and affected parties that a copy of the Authorisation will be furnished on request; and 1.11.4 give the reasons for the decision.	NC	No documentation or proof was made available to the auditor.
1.12	The applicant shall not commence with the proposed activity once an appeal has been lodged with the office of the MEC.	C	Activities commenced after the Appeal processed was followed, and no appeals lodged made in this regard.
MANAGEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY			

1.13	The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of application for an EA is hereby approved.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.14	The provisions of the EMPr included in the Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) are an extension to the conditions of Authorisation, and non-compliance with the conditions of the EMPr would accordingly constitute non-compliance with the conditions of this EA.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.15	Should there be a change of ownership and/or project developer, the Department must be notified within 30 (thirty) days prior to the change itself. Conditions imposed in this EA must be made known to the new owner and/or developer.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.16	The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the Final Basic Assessment Report dated 12 September 2023 must be adhered to and incorporated as part of the EMPr where applicable.	C	The recommendations and mitigation measures outlined in the Final Basic Assessment Report have been implemented and integrated into the EMPr where relevant.
1.17	Any updates or amendments to the EMPr must be submitted to the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and must be decided upon within a period of 30 days of the submission.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
MONITORING			
1.18	The applicant must appoint a suitably experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction and operation phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation / rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this EA are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.	C	An experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) from AMATHEMBA Environmental Management Consulting CC was appointed before construction phase and operational phase of the development to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this Environmental Authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.

1.19	The ECO shall be appointed before commencement of any construction activity.	C	The appointment contract was submitted to the auditor, indicating that an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) from AMATHEMBA Environmental Management Consulting CC was appointed on 07 September 2023. This appointment occurred prior to the construction and operational phases of the development to ensure the implementation of mitigation and rehabilitation measures and recommendations outlined in the Environmental Authorisation, as well as to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
1.20	The ECO shall keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.	C	ECO Reports showing record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO was made available to the auditor.
1.21	The ECO shall remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementations due to construction damage are completed and the site is ready for operation.	C	The ECO remains appointed for the operational phase of the project.
1.22	The ECO shall keep the records relating to monitoring and auditing on site and make them available for inspection to any relevant and Competent Authority in respect of this development.	C	Monthly audit reports undertaken by the ECO were made available to the auditor.
1.23	Construction and operation of the development may be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions of this particular EA as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from the conditions of this EA.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
RECORDING AND REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT			

1.24	1.24 The holder of the Authorisation must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within thirty (30) days upon completion of the construction and rehabilitation activities. The environmental audit report must — 1.24.1Be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the EA conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr. 1.24.2Be kept on site and be made available for inspection by any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.	NC	The external audits were conducted beyond the prescribed 30-day period following the completion of construction and Rehabilitation.
COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTIVITY			
1.25	The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days after the EA has been issued by the Department to allow the appeal process to proceed accordingly.	C	Activities commenced months after the Appeal process was followed, and no appeals lodged made in this regard.
1.26	Should you be notified by the MEC of a suspension of the EA pending appeal procedures, you shall not commence with the activity unless authorised by the MEC in writing.	N/A	Activities commenced after the Appeal processed was followed, and no appeals lodged made in this regard.
NOTIFICATION TO AUTHORITIES			
1.27	Fourteen (14) days prior written notice must be given to the Department that the activities will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which the construction of the activities will commence, as well as a reference number	C	Letter of proof of notification to the Department, dated 08 July 2025 was shared with the auditor. The commencement was on 15 August 2025, which is more than 14 days prior to operation commencement. Reference number was also included.
OPERATION OF THE ACTIVITY			

1.28	Fourteen (14) days prior written notice must be given to the Department that the activities will commence with the operation.	C	Letter of proof of notification to the Department, dated 08 July 2025 was shared with the auditor. The commencement was on 15 August 2025, which is more than 14 days prior to operation commencement.
SITE CLOSURE AND DECOMMISSIONING			
1.29	Should the activities ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
1.30	Before decommissioning of the development becomes evident a rehabilitation plan must be compiled and should be approved by this Department.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
SPECIFIC CONDITIONS			
1.31	An integrated waste management approach that is based on waste minimisation must be implemented and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste shall be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) as amended.	C	Waste management was integrated into the project in line with waste minimisation principles. Measures for waste reduction, re-use and recycling were implemented where feasible. All solid waste was disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008.
1.32	Prior commencement of the proposed development, the applicant must ensure to obtain a Water Use License/General Authorisation from the Department of Water and Sanitation, for development occurring within 500m from wetland/waterbodies.	C	Thev applicant provide a General Authorisation granted by DWS.

1.33	The applicant must ensure that solid general waste from construction phase is disposed of at a Licensed Waste Disposal Site.	C	Solid general waste generated during the construction phase was disposed of at a licensed waste disposal site. Certificate proof of lawful disposal was provided.
1.34	The hazardous waste produced during the construction phase must be appropriately stored in bunded areas for removal by an appropriate contractor and subsequent disposal at a Licensed Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility.	C	Minimal Hazardous Chemical Substances (HCS) are utilised and kept on site. Storage areas are bunded and lined to prevent leaks.HCS have been disposed from site by a licensed service provider(Holfontein Waste Management Facility), with license number 12/9/11/L21041312312213/3/R.
1.35	The applicant must ensure to adhere to the conditions stipulated on the letter from Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) dated 04 September 2023.	N/A	The EA holder confirmed that there was no letter received from the authority, dated 04 September 2024.
1.36	The design of the proposed grid connection must be of a type or similar structure as endorsed by the Eskom-EWT Strategic Partnership on Birds and Energy, considering the mitigation guidelines recommended by Birdlife South Africa.	C	The grid design was completed in accordance with the required standards. The proposed grid connection was developed using a structure type aligned with the Eskom–EWT Strategic Partnership on Birds and Energy and incorporates the mitigation measures recommended by BirdLife South Africa.
1.37	The applicant must ensure that prior commencement of the proposed development, a search and rescue and removal permit is obtained for Species of Conservational Concern, which found on development footprint.	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development. Therefore, this condition has been satisfied, ensuring compliance with the required permitting process.
1.38	The applicant must ensure that the proposed development implement a comprehensive monitoring and eradication programme to ensure that invasive plant species are removed from the area and prevented from re-establishing.	C	An alien species monitoring and eradication programme was implemented for the duration of the operation. Proof and supporting reports of identification, management actions and monitoring were provided.

1.39	The applicant must ensure that dust suppression measures are undertaken during construction phase.	N/A	Not Applicable at this audit period
1.40	The applicant must ensure that no movement of construction personnel or equipment are allowed to occur, within 32m buffer from edges of valley bottom wetlands found in the investigation area of the proposed development.	N/A	This condition falls outside the scope of this audit period
1.41	If any evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, paleontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources is found during construction, South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) and archaeologist and / palaeontologist, must be informed immediately depending on the nature of the findings.	N/A	This condition falls outside the scope of this audit period
1.42	The applicant must ensure to adhere to the recommendations of all specialist studies conducted for the proposed development.	C	The recommendations and mitigation measures outlined in the Specialist Reports have been implemented and integrated into the EMPr where relevant.
1.43	A copy of the EA must be kept at the property where the activities will be carried on. The EA must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the EA who works or undertakes work at the property.	C	A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, were made available to the auditor upon request.
1.44	Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

1.45	The applicant is responsible for compliance with the provisions for Duty-of-Care and remediation of damage contained in Section 28 and Emergency Incidents contained in Section 30 of the National Environmental Management Act, (Act no 107 of 1998).	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.46	The holder of the EA must notify the Department, in writing within 48 (forty-eight) hours, if any condition of this EA cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.47	Non-compliance with a condition of the EA may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
1.48	The Department shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

Table 8: Appendix I: Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the Development and Expansion For Overhead Electricity Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure: Proposed Grid Connection Infrastructure, Damlaagte Solar PV Facility: 132 KV Transmission Line (Dated: September 2021)

NO.	CONDITION	STATUS	AUDIT OBSERVATIONS (FINDINGS)
PART B: SECTION 1: PRE-APPROVED GENERIC EMPR TEMPLATE			
5.1	**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TRAINING**		
	All staff must receive environmental awareness training prior to commencement of the activities. Monthly and as and when required.	C	Monthly Environmental training attendance registers were provided
	The Contractor must allow for sufficient sessions to train all personnel with no more than 20 personnel attending each course; Monthly and as and when required.	C	Monthly environmental training attendance records were provided, although in some sessions, the number of attendees exceeded the recommended limit of 20 personnel.
	Refresher environmental awareness training is available as and when required	C	Monthly Environmental training attendance registers were provided
	All staff are aware of the conditions and controls linked to the EA and within the EMPr and made aware of their individual roles and responsibilities in achieving compliance with the EA and EMPr;	C	The staff were aware of the EA conditions, as observed during onsite interviews.
	The Contractor must erect and maintain information posters at key locations on site, and the posters must include the following information as a minimum: a) Safety notifications; and b) No littering	C	Safety posters are erected on site, since the project started.

	Environmental awareness training must include as a minimum the following: a) Description of significant environmental impacts, actual or potential, related to their work activities; b) Mitigation measures to be implemented when carrying out specific activities; c) Emergency preparedness and response procedures; d) Emergency procedures; e) Procedures to be followed when working near or within sensitive areas; f) Wastewater management procedures; g) Water usage and conservation; h) Solid waste management procedures; i) Sanitation procedures; j) Fire prevention; and k) Disease prevention.	C	Environmental awareness training registers, had training topics such as sustainability, wetland and protected areas, waste management, water conservation and HIV and AIDS awareness
	A record of all environmental awareness training courses undertaken as part of the EMPr must be available;	C	Environmental awareness training registers, had training topics such as sustainability, wetland and protected areas, waste management,water conservation and HIV and AIDS awareness
	Educate workers on the dangers of open and/or unattended fires;	C	Proof of fire toolbox talk was provided to the auditor to confirm that workers were educated on the dangers of open and/or unattended fires.
	A staff attendance register of all staff to have received environmental awareness training must be available.	C	Monthly environmental training attendance records were provided, although in some sessions, the number of attendees exceeded the recommended limit of 20 personnel.
	Course material must be available and presented in appropriate languages that all staff can understand	C	Environmental awareness training material for the above mentioned topics were provided.
5.2	**SITE ESTABLISHMENT DEVELOPMENT**		

	A method statement must be provided by the contractor prior to any onsite activity that includes the layout of the construction camp in the form of a plan showing the location of key infrastructure and services (where applicable), including but not limited to offices, overnight vehicle parking areas, stores, the workshop, stockpile and lay down areas, hazardous materials storage areas (including fuels), the batching plant (if one is located at the construction camp), designated access routes, equipment cleaning areas and the placement of staff accommodation, cooking and ablution facilities, waste and wastewater management;	N/A	This condition falls outside the scope of this audit period
	Location of construction camps must be within approved area to ensure that the site does not impact on sensitive areas identified in the environmental assessment or site walk through;	N/A	This condition falls outside the scope of this audit period
	Sites must be located where possible on previously disturbed areas	N/A	This condition falls outside the scope of this audit period
	The camp must be fenced in accordance with Section 5.5: Fencing and gate installation; and	N/A	This condition falls outside the scope of this audit period
	The use of existing accommodation for contractor staff, where possible, is encouraged.	N/A	This condition falls outside the scope of this audit period
5.3	**ACCESS RESTRICTED AREAS**		
	Identification of access restricted areas is to be informed by the environmental assessment, site walk through, and any additional areas identified during development;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	Erect, demarcate and maintain a temporary barrier with clear signage around the perimeter of any access restricted area, colour coding could be used if appropriate; and	C	Dermacation and signage were used to restrict access to restricted areas
	Unauthorised access and development related activity inside access restricted areas is prohibited	C	Authorisation was required to access to restricted areas
5.4	**ACCESS ROADS**		
	Access to the servitude and tower positions must be negotiated with the relevant landowner and must fall within the assessed and authorised area;	C	Access to the servitude and tower positions was successfully negotiated with the relevant landowner. All access routes and activities were strictly confined to the assessed and authorised areas, ensuring compliance with the approved environmental authorisation and minimising any potential impacts on surrounding properties.
	An access agreement must be formalised and signed by the DPM, Contractor and landowner before commencing with the activities;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	The access roads to tower positions must be signposted after access has been negotiated and before the commencement of the activities;	C	The contractor confirmed that access roads to tower positions were signposted prior to the commencement of activities, ensuring clear and effective signage for safety and operational purposes.
	All private roads used for access to the servitude must be maintained and upon completion of the works, be left in at least the original condition	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	All contractors must be made aware of all the access routes.	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	Any access route deviation from that in the written agreement must be closed and re-vegetated immediately, at the contractor's expense;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	Maximum use of both existing servitudes and existing roads must be made to minimise further disturbance through the development of new roads;	C	The project adhered to the requirement of maximizing the use of existing servitudes and roads, with no new access roads developed during the activity.

	In circumstances where private roads must be used, the condition of the said roads must be recorded in accordance with section 4.9: photographic record; prior to use and the condition thereof agreed by the landowner, the DPM, and the contractor;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	Access roads in flattish areas must follow fence lines and tree belts to avoid fragmentation of vegetated areas or croplands;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	Access roads must only be developed on pre-planned and approved roads.	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
5.5	**FENCING AND GATE INSTALLATION**		
	Use existing gates provided to gain access to all parts of the area authorised for development, where possible;	C	The existing gates were used to gain access to all parts of the area authorised for development wherever possible.
	Existing and new gates to be recorded and documented in accordance with section 4.9: photographic record;	C	Photographic evidence was provided to the auditor to confirm that existing and new gates were recorded and documented in accordance with Section 4.9
	All gates must be fitted with locks and be kept locked at all times during the development phase, unless otherwise agreed with the landowner;	C	All gates were fitted with locks and were kept locked at all times during the development phase, except where alternative arrangements were formally agreed upon with the landowner.
	At points where the line crosses an existing fence in which there is no suitable gate within the extent of the line servitude, on the instruction of the DPM, a gate must be installed at the approval of the landowner;	C	The contractor ensured that at points where the line crossed existing fences without suitable gates within the extent of the line servitude, gates were installed in accordance with the DPM's .
	Care must be taken that the gates must be so erected that there is a gap of no more than 100 mm between the bottom of the gate and the ground;	C	The gates were erected such that there was no more than 100 mm gap between the bottom of the gate and the ground.
	Where gates are installed in jackal proof fencing, a suitable reinforced concrete sill must be provided beneath the gate;	N/A	This requirement was not applicable, as no gates were installed within jackal-proof fencing.

	Original tension must be maintained in the fence wires;	N/A	This requirement was not applicable, as no fence wires requiring tensioning were installed or adjusted during the development.
	All gates installed in electrified fencing must be re-electrified;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	All demarcation fencing and barriers must be maintained in good working order for the duration of overhead transmission and distribution electricity infrastructure development activities;	C	The demarcation fencing and barriers were maintained in good working order throughout the duration of the overhead transmission and distribution electricity infrastructure development activities, ensuring continuous safety and compliance with project requirements.
	Fencing must be erected around the camp, batching plants, hazardous storage areas, and all designated access restricted areas, where appropriate and would not cause harm to the sensitive flora;	C	Fencing and barriers around the camp, batching plants, hazardous storage areas, and all restricted access zones were maintained in good working order throughout the duration of the overhead transmission and distribution infrastructure activities.
	Any temporary fencing to restrict the movement of livestock must only be erected with the permission of the landowner.	C	Temporary fencing to restrict livestock movement was erected only with the landowner's permission.
	All fencing must be developed of high-quality material bearing the SABS mark;	C	All fencing used high-quality materials
	The use of razor wire as fencing must be avoided as far as possible;	C	The use of razor wire was avoided .
	Fenced areas with gate access must remain locked after hours, during weekends and on holidays if staff is away from site. Site security will be required at all times;	C	Fenced areas with gates were kept locked outside working hours, during weekends, and on holidays if staff were absent, with security maintained at all times.
	On completion of the development phase all temporary fences are to be removed;	C	Upon completion of the development phase, all temporary fences were removed.
	The contractor must ensure that all fence uprights are appropriately removed, ensuring that no uprights are cut at ground level but rather removed completely.	C	All fence uprights were properly removed without cutting at ground level, but rather by complete extraction.

5.6	**WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT**		
	All abstraction points or bore holes must be registered with the DWS and suitable water meters installed to ensure that the abstracted volumes are measured on a daily basis;	C	Monthly registers was provided to the auditor to confirm that all abstraction points or boreholes were registered with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), or that suitable water meters were installed to measure abstracted volumes on a daily basis.
	The Contractor must ensure the following: a. The vehicle abstracting water from a river does not enter or cross it and does not operate from within the river; b. No damage occurs to the river bed or banks and that the abstraction of water does not entail stream diversion activities; and c. All reasonable measures to limit pollution or sedimentation of the downstream watercourse are implemented.	C	The contractor ensured that vehicles abstracting water did not enter, cross, or operate from within the river. No damage occurred to the river bed or banks, and no stream diversion activities were undertaken. Furthermore, all reasonable measures were implemented to prevent pollution and limit sedimentation of the downstream watercourse.
	Ensure water conservation is being practiced by: a. Minimising water use during cleaning of equipment; b. Undertaking regular audits of water systems; and c. Including a discussion on water usage and conservation during environmental awareness training. d. The use of grey water is encouraged.	C	Water conservation measures were implemented by minimising water use during the cleaning of equipment, conducting regular audits of water systems, and including water usage and conservation in environmental awareness training. In addition, the use of grey water was encouraged where feasible.
5.7	**STORM AND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT**		
	Runoff from the cement/concrete batching areas must be strictly controlled, and contaminated water must be collected, stored and either treated or disposed of off-site, at a location approved by the project manager;	C	Runoff from the cement/concrete batching areas was strictly controlled. Contaminated water was collected, stored, and either treated or disposed of off-site at a location approved by the Project Manager.

	All spillage of oil onto concrete surfaces must be controlled by the use of an approved absorbent material and the used absorbent material disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal facility;	C	All oil spillages on concrete surfaces were controlled using approved absorbent materials. The used absorbent material was disposed of at an appropriate licensed waste disposal facility.
	Natural stormwater runoff not contaminated during the development and clean water can be discharged directly to watercourses and water bodies, subject to the Project Manager's approval and support by the ECO;	C	Natural stormwater runoff that was not contaminated during the development was discharged directly to watercourses and water bodies, subject to approval by the Project Manager and with support from the ECO.
	Water that has been contaminated with suspended solids, such as soils and silt, may be released into watercourses or water bodies only once all suspended solids have been removed from the water by settling out these solids in settlement ponds. The release of settled water back into the environment must be subject to the Project Manager's approval and support by the ECO.	C	Water contaminated with suspended solids such as soils and silt was only released into watercourses or water bodies after all suspended solids were removed through settlement in settlement ponds. The release of settled water back into the environment was undertaken with the approval of the Project Manager and support from the ECO.
5.8	**SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**		
	All measures regarding waste management must be undertaken using an integrated waste management approach;	C	Waste management was integrated into the project in line with waste minimisation principles. Measures for waste reduction, re-use and recycling were implemented where feasible. All solid waste was disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008.
	Sufficient, covered waste collection bins (scavenger and weatherproof) must be provided;	C	Sufficient, covered waste collection bins, including scavenger-proof and weatherproof options, were provided throughout the site to ensure proper waste containment and prevent environmental contamination.
	A suitably positioned and clearly demarcated waste collection site must be identified and provided;	C	A suitably positioned and clearly demarcated waste collection site was identified and established to facilitate organised waste storage and collection.

	The waste collection site must be maintained in a clean and orderly manner;	C	The waste collection site was maintained in a clean, tidy, and orderly manner to promote hygiene and environmental safety.
	Waste must be segregated into separate bins and clearly marked for each waste type for recycling and safe disposal;	C	Waste is segregated into clearly marked bins designated for specific waste types, including recyclables and non-recyclables, to ensure safe disposal and promote recycling efforts.
	Staff must be trained in waste segregation;	C	All staff members have received training on waste segregation procedures to ensure proper handling, disposal, and recycling of waste materials.
	Bins must be emptied regularly;	C	Waste bins are emptied regularly to prevent overflow, reduce odour, and maintain cleanliness within the waste management system.
	General waste produced onsite must be disposed of at registered waste disposal sites/ recycling company;	C	All general waste produced onsite is disposed of at registered waste disposal facilities or recycling companies that comply with applicable environmental regulations.
	Hazardous waste must be disposed of at a registered waste disposal site;	C	Hazardous waste generated onsite is disposed of exclusively at registered hazardous waste disposal sites that meet regulatory standards.
	Certificates of safe disposal for general, hazardous and recycled waste must be maintained.	C	Certificates of safe disposal for all general waste, hazardous waste, and recycled materials are maintained as records to demonstrate compliance with waste management regulations.
5.9	**PROTECTION OF WATERCOURSES AND ESTUARIES**		
	All watercourses must be protected from direct or indirect spills of pollutants such as solid waste, sewage, cement, oils, fuels, chemicals, aggregate tailings, wash and contaminated water or organic material resulting from the Contractor's activities;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.

	In the event of a spill, prompt action must be taken to clear the polluted or affected areas;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	Where possible, no development equipment must traverse any seasonal or permanent wetland	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	No return flow into the estuaries must be allowed and no disturbance of the Estuarine Functional Zone should occur;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	Development of permanent watercourse or estuary crossing must only be undertaken where no alternative access to tower position is available;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	There must not be any impact on the long-term morphological dynamics of watercourses or estuaries;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.

	Existing crossing points must be favoured over the creation of new crossings (including temporary access)	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	When working in or near any watercourse or estuary, the following environmental controls and consideration must be taken: a) Water levels during the period of construction; No altering of the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse b) During the execution of the works, appropriate measures to prevent pollution and contamination of the riparian environment must be implemented e.g. including ensuring that construction equipment is well maintained; c) Where earthwork is being undertaken in close proximity to any watercourse, slopes must be stabilised using suitable materials, i.e. sandbags or geotextile fabric, to prevent sand and rock from entering the channel; and d) Appropriate rehabilitation and re-vegetation measures for the watercourse banks must be implemented timeously. In this regard, the banks should be appropriately and incrementally stabilised as soon as development allows	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
5.10	**VEGETATION CLEARING**		
	Indigenous vegetation which does not interfere with the development must be left undisturbed;	C	Minimal vegetation clearance was witnessed by the auditors on site.

	Protected or endangered species may occur on or near the development site. Special care should be taken not to damage such species;	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
	Search, rescue, and replanting of all protected and endangered species likely to be damaged during project development must be identified by the relevant specialist and completed prior to any development or clearing;	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
	Permits for removal must be obtained from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) and the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) prior to the cutting or clearing of the affected species, and they must be filed;	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
	The Environmental Audit Report must confirm that all identified species have been rescued and replanted and that the location of replanting is compliant with conditions of approvals;	C	ECO report dated January 2024 confirmed that all identified species were rescued and replanted, or that the replanting locations complied with the conditions of the relevant approvals.
	Trees felled due to construction must be documented and form part of the Environmental Audit Report;	N/A	No trees were felled due to construction

	Rivers and watercourses must be kept clear of felled trees, vegetation cuttings and debris;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	Only a registered pest control operator may apply herbicides on a commercial basis and commercial application must be carried out under the supervision of a registered pest control operator that is appropriately trained;	C	Certificate of a registered pest controller was provided to the auditor to confirm that herbicides were applied only by a registered pest control operator.
	A daily register must be kept of all relevant details of herbicide usage;	N/A	This condition is not applicable to the project site
	No herbicides must be used in estuaries;	N/A	This condition is not applicable to the project site
	All protected species and sensitive vegetation not removed must be clearly marked and such areas fenced off in accordance to Section 5.3: Access restricted areas.	N/A	The condition regarding marking and fencing off protected species and sensitive vegetation was not applicable, as the site and activities did not affect any protected species or sensitive vegetation within the area requiring restricted access.
	Vegetation that does not grow high enough to cause interference with overhead transmission and distribution infrastructures, or cause a fire hazard to any plantation, must not be cut, or trimmed unless it is growing in the road access area, and then only at the discretion of the Project Manager;	N/A	The condition regarding cutting or trimming vegetation was not applicable, as there was no vegetation growing in the road access areas that posed a risk to overhead transmission or distribution infrastructure, or a fire hazard to plantations.
	Where clearing for access purposes is essential, the maximum width to be cleared within the servitude must be in accordance to distance as agreed between the landowner and the EA holder	C	Where clearing for access purposes was essential, the maximum width cleared within the servitude was in accordance with the distance agreed between the landowner and the EA holder.

	Alien invasive vegetation must be removed according to a plan (in line with relevant municipal and provincial procedures, guidelines, and recommendations) and disposed of at a recognised waste disposal facility;	N/A	The condition regarding the removal of alien invasive vegetation was not applicable, as no alien invasive vegetation was present within the site requiring removal or disposal.
	Vegetation must be trimmed where it is likely to intrude on the minimum vegetation clearance distance (MVCD) or will intrude on this distance before the next scheduled clearance. MVCD is determined from SANS 10280;	C	Vegetation was trimmed where it was likely to intrude on the minimum vegetation clearance distance (MVCD) or could intrude before the next scheduled clearance. MVCD was determined in accordance with SANS 10280.
	Debris resulting from clearing and pruning must be disposed of at a recognised waste disposal facility, unless the landowners wish to retain the cut vegetation	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	In the case of the development of new overhead transmission and distribution infrastructures, a one metre “trace-line” must be cut through the vegetation for stringing purposes only and no vehicle access must be cleared along the ”trace-line”. Alternative methods of stringing that limit impact to the environment must always be considered.	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
5.11	**PROTECTION OF FAUNA**		
	No interference with livestock must occur without the landowner’s written consent and with the landowner or a person representing the landowner being present;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	The breeding sites of raptors and other wild bird species must be taken into consideration during the planning of the development programme;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility

	Breeding sites must be kept intact and disturbance to breeding birds must be avoided. Special care must be taken where nestlings or fledglings are present;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	Nesting sites on existing parallel lines must documented;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	Special recommendations of the avian specialist must be adhered to at all times to prevent unnecessary disturbance of birds;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	Bird guards and diverters must be installed on the new line as per the recommendations of the specialist;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	No poaching must be tolerated under any circumstances. All animal dens in close proximity to the works areas must be marked as Access restricted areas;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	No deliberate or intentional killing of fauna is allowed;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	In areas where snakes are abundant, snake deterrents are to be deployed on the pylons to prevent snakes climbing up, being electrocuted, and causing power outages; and	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	No Threatened or Protected species (ToPs) and/or protected fauna as listed according NEMBA (Act No. 10 of 2004) and relevant provincial ordinances may be removed and/or relocated without appropriate authorisations/permits	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
5.12	**PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES**		

	Identify, demarcate, and prevent impact to all known sensitive heritage features on site in accordance with the No-Go procedure in Section 5.3: Access restricted areas;	N/A	No heritage resources were found on site during construction.
	Carry out general monitoring of excavations for potential fossils, artefacts, and material of heritage importance;	N/A	No heritage resources were found on site during construction.
	All work must cease immediately, if any human remains and/or other archaeological, palaeontological, and historical material are uncovered. Such material, if exposed, must be reported to the nearest museum, archaeologist/ palaeontologist(or the South African Police Services), so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time must be allowed to remove/collect such material before development recommences.	N/A	No heritage resources were found on site during construction.
5.13	**SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC**		
	Identify fire hazards, demarcate, and restrict public access to these areas as well as notify the local authority of any potential threats e.g., large brush stockpiles, fuels, etc.;	N/A	This condition is not applicable to the project site
	All unattended open excavations must be adequately fenced or demarcated;	C	All unattended open excavations were adequately fenced or demarcated to prevent accidental entry.
	Adequate protective measures must be implemented to prevent unauthorised access to and climbing of partly constructed towers and protective scaffolding;	C	Adequate protective measures were implemented to prevent unauthorised access to and climbing of partly constructed towers and protective scaffolding.
	Ensure structures vulnerable to high winds are secured;	C	Structures that were vulnerable to high winds were secured to prevent movement or collapse.

	Maintain an incidents and complaints register in which all incidents or complaints involving the public are logged.	C	An incidents and complaints register was maintained, and all incidents or complaints involving the public were documented accordingly.
5.14	**SANITATION**		
	Mobile chemical toilets are installed onsite if no other ablution facilities are available; The use of ablution facilities and or mobile toilets must be used at all times and no indiscriminate use of the veld for the purposes of ablutions must be permitted under any circumstances;	C	Mobile chemical toilets were installed onsite where no other facilities were available, and their use was mandatory at all times, with no permits for or allowance of indiscriminate veld ablutions.
	Where mobile chemical toilets are required, the following must be ensured: a) Toilets are located no closer than 100 m to any watercourse or water body; b) Toilets are secured to the ground to prevent them from toppling due to wind or any other cause; c) No spillage occurs when the toilets are cleaned or emptied and the contents are managed in accordance with the EMPr; d) Toilets have an external closing mechanism and are closed and secured from the outside when not in use to prevent toilet paper from being blown out; e) Toilets are emptied before long weekends and workers holidays, and must be locked after working hours; f) Toilets are serviced regularly and the ECO must inspect toilets to ensure compliance to health standards;	C	The toilets were strategically located at least 100 meters from watercourses or water bodies, securely anchored to prevent toppling, and maintained in a manner that prevented spillage during cleaning or emptying, with waste managed according to the EMPr. They featured external closing mechanisms, ensuring they were properly closed and secured when not in use to prevent the dispersal of toilet paper. The toilets were emptied ahead of long weekends and holidays, locked after working hours, and regularly serviced, with inspections conducted by the Environmental Control Officer to ensure compliance with health standards.
	A copy of the waste disposal certificates must be maintained.	C	A copy of the waste disposal certificates was maintained.
5.15	**PREVENTION OF DISEASE**		
	Undertake environmentally friendly pest control in the camp area;	C	Environmentally friendly pest control was undertaken in the camp area
	Ensure that the workforce is sensitised to the effects of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/ AIDS;	C	The workforce was sensitised to the effects of sexually transmitted diseases, with specific focus on HIV/AIDS.

	The Contractor must ensure that information posters on HIV/ AIDS are displayed in the Contractor Camp area;	C	HIV/AIDS information posters were displayed in the Contractor Camp area.
	Information and education relating to sexually transmitted diseases to be made available to both construction workers and local community, where applicable;	C	Information and education relating to sexually transmitted diseases were made available to construction workers and, where applicable, the local community, and an HIV/AIDS awareness session was held.
	Free condoms must be made available to all staff on site at central points;	C	Free condoms were made available to all staff on site at central points.
	Medical support must be made available;	C	Medical support was made available
	Provide access to Voluntary HIV Testing and Counselling Services.	C	Access to Voluntary HIV Testing and Counselling Services was provided.
5.16	**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**		
	Compile an Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) prior to the commencement of the proposed project	C	An Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) was compiled prior to the commencement of the proposed project.
	The Emergency Plan must deal with accidents, potential spillages, and fires in line with relevant legislation;	C	The Emergency Plan addressed accidents, potential spillages, and fires in accordance with relevant legislation.
	All staff must be made aware of emergency procedures as part of environmental awareness training;	C	All staff were made aware of emergency procedures.
	The relevant local authority must be made aware of a fire as soon as it starts;	T/N	Condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar Facility
	In the event of emergency, necessary mitigation measures to contain the spill or leak must be implemented (see Hazardous Substances section 5.17).	T/N	Condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar Facility
5.17	**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**		
	The use and storage of hazardous substances to be minimised and non-hazardous and non-toxic alternatives substituted where possible;	C	The use and storage of hazardous substances was minimised, and non-hazardous and non-toxic alternatives were substituted where possible.

	All hazardous substances must be stored in suitable containers as defined in the Method Statement;	C	All hazardous substances were stored in suitable containers as defined in the Method Statement.
	Containers must be clearly marked to indicate contents, quantities, and safety requirements;	C	Containers were clearly marked to indicate contents, quantities, and safety requirements.
	All storage areas must be bunded. The bunded area must be of sufficient capacity to contain a spill / leak from the stored containers;	C	All storage areas were bunded, with sufficient capacity to contain a spill or leak from the stored containers.
	Bunded areas to be suitably lined with a SABS approved liner;	C	Bunded areas were lined with a SABS-approved liner.
	An Alphabetical Hazardous Chemical Substance (HCS) control sheet must be drawn up and kept up to date on a continuous basis;	C	An alphabetical Hazardous Chemical Substance (HCS) control sheet was drawn up and kept up to date continuously.
	All hazardous chemicals that will be used on site must have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS);	C	Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were available for all hazardous chemicals used on site.
	All employees working with HCS must be trained in the safe use of the substance and according to the safety data sheet	C	All employees working with HCS were trained in the safe use of substances in accordance with the relevant safety data sheets.
	Employees handling hazardous substances / materials must be aware of the potential impacts and follow appropriate safety measures. Appropriate personal protective equipment must be made available;	C	Employees handling hazardous substances/materials were made aware of potential impacts and followed appropriate safety measures; personal protective equipment was provided.
	The Contractor must ensure that diesel and other liquid fuel, oil and hydraulic fluid is stored in appropriate storage tanks or in bowsers	C	Diesel, oil, hydraulic fluid, and other liquid fuels were stored in appropriate storage tanks or bowsers.
	The tanks/ bowsers must be situated on a smooth impermeable surface (concrete) with a permanent bund. The impermeable lining must extend to the crest of the bund and the volume inside the bund must be 130% of the total capacity of all the storage tanks/ bowsers (110% statutory requirement plus an allowance for rainfall);	C	Storage tanks/bowsers were situated on a smooth, impermeable concrete surface with a permanent bund; the bund capacity exceeded 130% of the total tank capacity

	The floor of the bund must be sloped, draining to an oil separator;	C	The floor of the bund was sloped to drain into an oil separator.
	Provision must be made for refuelling at the storage area by protecting the soil with an impermeable groundcover. Where dispensing equipment is used, a drip tray must be used to ensure small spills are contained;	C	Refuelling at the storage area was conducted over an impermeable groundcover, with drip trays used where dispensing equipment was in operation.
	All empty externally dirty drums must be stored on a drip tray or within a bunded area;	C	Empty externally dirty drums were stored on drip trays or within bunded areas.
	No unauthorised access into the hazardous substances storage areas must be permitted;	C	No unauthorised access to hazardous substance storage areas was permitted.
	No smoking must be allowed within the vicinity of the hazardous storage areas;	C	No smoking was allowed within the vicinity of hazardous substance storage areas.
	Adequate fire-fighting equipment must be made available at all hazardous storage areas;	C	Adequate fire-fighting equipment was available at all hazardous storage areas.
	Where refuelling away from the dedicated refuelling station is required, a mobile refuelling unit must be used. Appropriate ground protection such as drip trays must be used;	C	Mobile refuelling units were used when refuelling away from the dedicated station, with appropriate ground protection such as drip trays.
	An appropriately sized spill kit kept onsite relevant to the scale of the activity/s involving the use of hazardous substance must be available at all times;	C	Appropriately sized spill kits relevant to the scale of activities involving hazardous substances were available at all times.
	The responsible operator must have the required training to make use of the spill kit in emergency situations;	C	Responsible operators were trained to use the spill kit in emergency situations.
	An appropriate number of spill kits must be available and must be located in all areas where activities are being undertaken;	C	An appropriate number of spill kits were available and located in all areas where activities were being undertaken.

	In the event of a spill, contaminated soil must be collected in containers and stored in a central location and disposed of according to the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008. Refer to Section 5.7 for procedures concerning storm and waste water management and 5.8 for solid and hazardous waste management.	C	Minor spillages occurred on site and were promptly cleaned. Contaminated soil was collected in containers, stored in a central location, and disposed of in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008, following the procedures outlined in Sections 5.7 and 5.8 for storm/waste water and solid/hazardous waste management.
5.18	**WORKSHOP, EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE**		
	Where possible and practical all maintenance of vehicles and equipment must take place in the workshop area	N/A	No workshop was established on site during the audit period.
	During servicing of vehicles or equipment, especially where emergency repairs are effected outside the workshop area, a suitable drip tray must be used to prevent spills onto the soil.	N/A	No workshop was established on site during the audit period.
	Leaking equipment must be repaired immediately or be removed from site to facilitate repair;	N/A	There were no emergencies requiring servicing that took place on site during the audit period.
	Workshop areas must be monitored for oil and fuel spills;	N/A	No workshop was established on site during the audit period.
	Appropriately sized spill kit kept onsite relevant to the scale of the activity taking place must be available;	C	spill kit relevant to the scale of activity was kept onsite at all times, ensuring rapid response capability to contain and clean up spills.
	The workshop area must have a bunded concrete slab that is sloped to facilitate runoff into a collection sump or suitable oil /water separator where maintenance work on vehicles and equipment can be performed;	N/A	No workshop was established on site during the audit period.
	Water drainage from the workshop must be contained and managed in accordance with Section 5.7: storm and waste water management.	N/A	No workshop was established on site during the audit period.
5.19	**BATCHING PLANTS**		
	Concrete mixing must be carried out on an impermeable surface;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Batching plants areas must be fitted with a containment facility for the collection of cement laden water.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Dirty water from the batching plant must be contained to prevent soil and groundwater contamination	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Bagged cement must be stored in an appropriate facility and at least 10 m away from any water courses, gullies and drains;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	A washout facility must be provided for washing of concrete associated equipment. Water used for washing must be restricted;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Hardened concrete from the washout facility or concrete mixer can either be reused or disposed of at an appropriate licensed disposal facility;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Empty cement bags must be secured with adequate binding material if these will be temporarily stored on site;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Sand and aggregates containing cement must be kept damp to prevent the generation of dust (Refer to Section 5.20: Dust emissions)	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Any excess sand, stone and cement must be removed or reused from site on completion of construction period and disposed at a registered disposal facility;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Temporary fencing must be erected around batching plants in accordance with Section 5.5: Fencing and gate installation.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.20	**DUST EMISSIONS**		
	Take all reasonable measures to minimise the generation of dust as a result of project development activities to the satisfaction of the ECO;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Removal of vegetation must be avoided until such time as soil stripping is required, and similarly exposed surfaces must be re- vegetated or stabilised as soon as is practically possible;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Excavation, handling, and transport of erodible materials must be avoided under high wind conditions or when a visible dust plume is present;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	During high wind conditions, the ECO must evaluate the situation and make recommendations as to whether dust-damping measures are adequate, or whether working will cease altogether until the wind speed drops to an acceptable level;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Where possible, soil stockpiles must be located in sheltered areas where they are not exposed to the erosive effects of the wind;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Where erosion of stockpiles becomes a problem, erosion control measures must be implemented at the discretion of the ECO;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Vehicle speeds must not exceed 40 km/h along dust roads or 20 km/h when traversing unconsolidated and non-vegetated areas;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Straw stabilisation must be applied at a rate of one bale/10 m² and harrowed into the top 100 mm of top material, for all completed earthworks;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	For significant areas of excavation or exposed ground, dust suppression measures must be used to minimise the spread of dust	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.21	**BLASTING**		

	Any blasting activity must be conducted by a suitably licensed blasting contractor; and	N/A	The activity did not include blasting
	Notification of surrounding landowners, emergency services site personnel of blasting activity 24 hours prior to such activity taking place on Site.	N/A	The activity did not include blasting
5.22	**NOISE**		
	The Contractor must keep noise level within acceptable limits. Restrict the use of sound amplification equipment for communication and emergency only;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	All vehicles and machinery must be fitted with appropriate silencing technology and must be properly maintained;	N/A	No sound amplification equipment will be used on site.
	Any complaints received by the Contractor regarding noise must be recorded and communicated. Where possible or applicable, provide transport to and from the site on a daily basis for construction workers;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Develop a Code of Conduct for the construction phase in terms of behaviour of construction staff. Operating hours as determined by the environmental authorisation are adhered to during the development phase. Where not defined, it must be ensured that development activities must still meet the impact management outcome related to noise management.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.23	**FIRE PREVENTION**		
	Designate smoking areas where the fire hazard could be regarded as insignificant;	C	Smoking areas were designated where the fire hazard was regarded as insignificant.
	Firefighting equipment must be available on all vehicles located on site;	C	Firefighting equipment was available on all vehicles located on site.

	The local Fire Protection Agency (FPA) must be informed of construction activities;	C	The local Fire Protection Agency (FPA) was informed of construction activities.
	Contact numbers for the FPA and emergency services must be communicated in environmental awareness training and displayed at a central location on site; Two-way swop of contact details between ECO and FPA.	C	Contact numbers for the FPA and emergency services were communicated in environmental awareness training and displayed at a central location on site.
5.24	**STOCKPILING AND STOCKPILE AREAS**		
	All material that is excavated during the project development phase (either during piling (if required) or earthworks) must be stored appropriately on site in order to minimise impacts to watercourses, watercourses, and water bodies;	C	All material that was excavated during the project development phase, whether during piling or earthworks, was stored appropriately on site to minimise impacts to watercourses and water bodies.
	All stockpiled material must be maintained and kept clear of weeds and alien vegetation growth by undertaking regular weeding and control methods;	C	All stockpiled material was maintained and kept clear of weeds and alien vegetation.
	Topsoil stockpiles must not exceed 2 m in height;	C	Topsoil stockpiles did not exceed 2 metres in height.
	During periods of strong winds and heavy rain, the stockpiles must be covered with appropriate material (e.g., cloth, tarpaulin etc.);	C	During periods of strong winds and heavy rain, all stockpiles were covered with appropriate materials such as tarpaulins to prevent dispersal.
	Where possible, sandbags (or similar) must be placed at the bases of the stockpiled material in order to prevent erosion of the material.	C	Sandbags (or similar measures) were placed at the bases of stockpiled material where possible to prevent erosion and runoff of the material.
5.25	**FINALISING TOWER POSITIONS**		
	No vegetation clearing must occur during survey and pegging operations;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	No new access roads must be developed to facilitate access for survey and pegging purposes;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Project manager, botanical specialist, and contractor to agree on final tower positions based on survey within assessed and approved areas;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	The surveyor is to demarcate (peg) access roads / tracks in consultation with ECO. No deviations will be allowed without the prior written consent from the ECO.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.26	**EXCAVATION AND INSTALLATION OF FOUNDATIONS**		
	All excess spoil generated during foundation excavation must be disposed of in an appropriate manner and at a recognised disposal site, if not used for backfilling purposes;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Spoil can however be used for landscaping purposes and must be covered with a layer of 150 mm topsoil for rehabilitation purposes;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Management of equipment for excavation purposes must be undertaken in accordance with Section 5.18: Workshop equipment maintenance and storage; and	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Hazardous substances spills from equipment must be managed in accordance with Section 5.17: Hazardous substances.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Batching of cement to be undertaken in accordance with Section 5.19: Batching plants;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Residual cement must be disposed of in accordance with Section 5.8: Solid and hazardous waste management.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.27	**ASSEMBLY AND ERECTING TOWERS**		
	Prior to erection, assembled towers and tower sections must be stored on elevated surfaces (suggest wooden blocks) to minimise damage to the underlying vegetation;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	In sensitive areas, tower assembly must take place offsite or away from sensitive positions;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	The crane used for tower assembly must be operated in a manner which minimises impact to the environment;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	The number of crane trips to each site must be minimised;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Wheeled cranes must be utilised in preference to tracked cranes;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Consideration must be given to erecting towers by helicopter or by hand where it is warranted to limit the extent of environmental impact;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Access to tower positions to be undertaken in accordance with access requirements specified in Section 5.4: Access Roads;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Vegetation clearance to be undertaken in accordance with general vegetation clearance requirements specified in Section 5.10:Vegetation clearing;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	No levelling at tower sites must be permitted unless approved by the Development Project Manager or Developer Site Supervisor;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Topsoil must be removed separately from subsoil material and stored for later use during rehabilitation of such tower sites;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Topsoil must be stored in heaps not higher than 2m to prevent destruction of the seed bank within the topsoil;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Excavated slopes must be no greater that 1:3, but where this is unavoidable, appropriate measures must be undertaken to stabilise the slopes;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Fly rock from blasting activity must be minimised and any pieces greater than 150 mm falling beyond the Working Area, must be collected and removed;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Only existing disturbed areas are utilised as spoil areas;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Drainage is provided to control groundwater exit gradient with the spill areas such that migration of fines is kept to a minimum;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Surface water runoff is appropriately channelled through or around spoil areas;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	During backfilling operations, care must be taken not to dump the topsoil at the bottom of the foundation and then put spoil on top of that;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	The surface of the spoil is appropriately rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements specified in Section 5.29: Landscaping and rehabilitation;	C	The surface of the spoil was rehabilitated in accordance with the requirements specified in Section 5.29: Landscaping and Rehabilitation.
	The retained topsoil must be spread evenly over areas to be rehabilitated and suitably compacted to effect revegetation of such areas to prevent erosion as soon as construction activities on the site is complete. Spreading of topsoil must not be undertaken at the beginning of the dry season.	C	The retained topsoil was evenly spread over areas designated for rehabilitation and suitably compacted to facilitate revegetation, preventing erosion after construction activities were completed. Spreading of topsoil was avoided at the beginning of the dry season to ensure optimal growth conditions.
5.28	**STRINGING**		
	Where possible, previously disturbed areas must be used for the siting of winch and tensioner stations. In all other instances, the siting of the winch and tensioner must avoid Access restricted areas and other sensitive areas;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	The winch and tensioner station must be equipped with drip trays in order to contain any fuel, hydraulic fuel or oil spills and leaks;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Refuelling of the winch and tensioner stations must be undertaken in accordance with Section 5.17: Hazardous substances;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	In the case of the development of overhead transmission and distribution infrastructure, a one metre “trace-line” may be cut through the vegetation for stringing purposes only and no vehicle access must be cleared along ”trace-lines”. Vegetation clearing must be undertaken by hand, using chainsaws and handheld implements, with vegetation being cut off at ground level. No tracked or wheeled mechanised equipment must be used;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Alternative methods of stringing which limit impact to the environment must always be considered e.g., by hand or by using a helicopter;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Where the stringing operation crosses a public or private road or railway line, the necessary scaffolding/ protection measures must be installed to facilitate access. If, for any reason, such access has to be closed for any period(s) during development, the persons affected must be given reasonable notice, in writing;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	No services (electrical distribution lines, telephone lines, roads, railways lines, pipelines fences etc.) must be damaged because of stringing operations. Where disruption to services is unavoidable, persons affected must be given reasonable notice, in writing;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Where stringing operations cross cultivated land, damage to crops is restricted to the minimum required to conduct stringing operations, and reasonable notice (10 work days minimum), in writing, must be provided to the landowner;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Necessary scaffolding protection measures must be installed to prevent damage to the structures supporting certain high value agricultural areas such as vineyards, orchards, nurseries.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.29	**SOCIO-ECONOMIC**		
	Develop and implement communication strategies to facilitate public participation;	C	Community Investment Plan – 2025 was provided to the auditor to confirm that communication strategies were developed and implemented to facilitate public participation.
	Develop and implement a collaborative and constructive approach to conflict resolution as part of the external stakeholder engagement process;	C	Community Development and Stakeholder Engagement presentation and images were provided to the auditor to confirm that a collaborative and constructive approach to conflict resolution was developed and implemented as part of the external stakeholder engagement process.
	Sustain continuous communication and liaison with neighbouring owners and residents	C	Community Development and Stakeholder Engagement was provided to the auditor to confirm that continuous communication and liaison with neighbouring owners and residents was maintained.
	Create work and training opportunities for local stakeholders; and	C	Job creation statistics were provided as proof to the auditor to confirm that work and training opportunities were created for local stakeholders.
	Where feasible, no workers, with the exception of security personnel, must be permitted to stay over-night on the site. This would reduce the risk to local farmers.	C	Working hours were provided as proof to the auditor to confirm that, workers (excluding security personnel) were not permitted to stay overnight on the site to reduce risks to local farmers.
5.30	**TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SITE**		
	Bunds must be emptied (where applicable) and need to be undertaken in accordance with the impact management actions included in sections 5.17: management of hazardous substances and 5.18 workshop, equipment maintenance and storage;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Hazardous storage areas must be well ventilated;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	Fire extinguishers must be serviced and accessible. Service records to be filed and audited at last service;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Emergency and contact details must be displayed;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Security personnel must be briefed and have the facilities to contact or be contacted by relevant management and emergency personnel;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Night hazards such as reflectors, lighting, traffic signage etc. must have been checked;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Fire hazards identified and the local authority must have been notified of any potential threats e.g., large brush stockpiles, fuels etc.;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Structures vulnerable to high winds must be secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Wind and dust mitigation must be implemented;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Cement and materials stores must have been secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Toilets must have been emptied and secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Refuse bins must have been emptied and secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Drip trays must have been emptied and secured.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
5.31	**LANDSCAPING AND REHABILITATION**		
	All areas disturbed by construction activities must be subject to landscaping and rehabilitation; All spoil and waste must be disposed to a registered waste site and certificates of disposal provided;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	All slopes must be assessed for contouring, and to contour only when the need is identified in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	All slopes must be assessed for terracing, and to terrace only when the need is identified in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Berms that have been created must have a slope of 1:4 and be replanted with indigenous species and grasses that approximates the original condition;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Where new access roads have crossed cultivated farmlands, that lands must be rehabilitated by ripping which must be agreed to by the holder of the EA and the landowners;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Rehabilitation of tower sites and access roads outside of farmland;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Indigenous species must be used for with species and/grasses to where it compliments or approximates the original condition;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Stockpiled topsoil must be used for rehabilitation (refer to Section 5.24: Stockpiling and stockpiled areas);	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Stockpiled topsoil must be evenly spread so as to facilitate seeding and minimise loss of soil due to erosion;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Before placing topsoil, all visible weeds from the placement area and from the topsoil must be removed;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Subsoil must be ripped before topsoil is placed;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	The rehabilitation must be timed so that rehabilitation can take place at the optimal time for vegetation establishment;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Where impacted through construction related activity, all sloped areas must be stabilised to ensure proper rehabilitation is effected and erosion is controlled;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	Sloped areas stabilised using design structures or vegetation as specified in the design to prevent erosion of embankments. The contract design specifications must be adhered to and implemented strictly;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Spoil can be used for backfilling or landscaping as long as it is covered by a minimum of 150 mm of topsoil.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Where required, re-vegetation including hydro-seeding can be enhanced using a vegetation seed mixture as described below. A mixture of seed can be used provided the mixture is carefully selected to ensure the following: a) Annual and perennial plants are chosen; b) Pioneer species are included; c) Species chosen must be indigenous to the area with the seeds used coming from the area; d) Root systems must have a binding effect on the soil; e) The final product must not cause an ecological imbalance in the area	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
PART C: SECTION 8. SITE SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES			
8.1	**SITE DERMACATION**		
	Implement a 40 m no-go buffer around the existing fuel pipeline located on Portion 6 of the Farm Vlakfontein 161 and Portion 3 of the Farm Willow Grange 246. No construction activities can take place within this buffer area.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
8.2	**VISUAL**		
	It should be ensured that the overhead transmission lines run parallel to existing transmission lines, and other linear features as far as possible.	C	The overhead transmission lines run parallel to existing transmission lines and other linear features wherever possible.
8.3	**AVIFAUNA**		

	The avifaunal specialist must conduct a walkthrough prior to implementation to demarcate sections of powerline that need to be marked with Eskom approved bird flight diverters. The bird flight diverters should be installed on the full span length on the earth wire (according to Eskom guidelines - five metres apart). Light and dark colour devices must be alternated to provide contrast against both dark and light backgrounds respectively. These devices must be installed as soon as the conductors are strung.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	No off-road driving.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Maximum use of existing roads, where possible: Ensure that construction personnel are made aware of the impacts relating to offroad driving. Construction access roads must be demarcated clearly. Undertake site inspections to verify.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Measures to control noise and dust according to latest best practice: Monitor the implementation of noise control mechanisms via site inspections and record and report noncompliance.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Restricted access to the rest of the property: Ensure that the construction area is demarcated clearly and that construction personnel are made aware of these demarcations. Monitor via site inspections and report noncompliance.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
8.4	**HERITAGE AND PALEONTOLOGY**		
	A heritage walkdown survey should be conducted with a heritage specialist of the final pylon positions for the preferred grid connection corridor prior to construction.	N/A	No heritage Resources were found on site

	A Chance Finds Procedure should be implemented when heritage finds are uncovered.	N/A	No heritage Resources were found on site
	If risks are manifested (accidental discovery of heritage resources) the Chance Find Procedure should be implemented: 1. Cease all works immediately; 2. Report incident to the DEO & ECO; 3. Contact an Archaeologist/ Palaeontologist to inspect the site; 4. Report incident to the Competent Authority; and 5. Employ reasonable mitigation measures in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities. • Only recommence operations once impacts have been mitigated. • When excavations begin the rocks must be given a cursory inspection by the Environmental Control Officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (plants, insects, bone, coal) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the project activities will not be interrupted. • Photographs of similar fossils must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants, vertebrates, invertebrates or trace fossils in the shales and mudstones. This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures. • Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment. • If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer, then a qualified palaeontologist subcontracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible. • Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the Palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits	N/A	No heritage Resources were found on site

Table 9: Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) For The Development and Expansion Of Substation Infrastructure For The Transmission and Distribution of Electricity: Generic Damlaagte Solar PV Facility Substation.(Dated: September 2021)

NO.	CONDITION	STATUS	AUDIT OBSERVATIONS (FINDINGS)
PART B: SECTION 1: PRE-APPROVED GENERIC EMPR TEMPLATE			
5.1	**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TRAINING**		
	All staff must receive environmental awareness training prior to commencement of the activities. Monthly and as and when required.	C	Monthly Environmental training attendance registers were provided
	The Contractor must allow for sufficient sessions to train all personnel with no more than 20 personnel attending each course; Monthly and as and when required.	C	Monthly environmental training attendance records were provided, although in some sessions, the number of attendees exceeded the recommended limit of 20 personnel.
	Refresher environmental awareness training is available as and when required	C	Monthly Environmental training attendance registers were provided
	All staff are aware of the conditions and controls linked to the EA and within the EMPr and made aware of their individual roles and responsibilities in achieving compliance with the EA and EMPr;	C	The staff were aware of the EA conditions, as observed during onsite interviews.
	The Contractor must erect and maintain information posters at key locations on site, and the posters must include the following information as a minimum: a) Safety notifications; and b) No littering	C	Safety posters are erected on site, since the project started.

	Environmental awareness training must include as a minimum the following: a) Description of significant environmental impacts, actual or potential, related to their work activities; b) Mitigation measures to be implemented when carrying out specific activities; c) Emergency preparedness and response procedures; d) Emergency procedures; e) Procedures to be followed when working near or within sensitive areas; f) Wastewater management procedures; g) Water usage and conservation; h) Solid waste management procedures; i) Sanitation procedures; j) Fire prevention; and k) Disease prevention.	C	Environmental awareness training registers, had training topics such as sustainability, wetland and protected areas, waste management, water conservation and HIV and AIDS awareness
	A record of all environmental awareness training courses undertaken as part of the EMPr must be available;	C	Environmental awareness training registers, had training topics such as sustainability, wetland and protected areas, waste management, water conservation and HIV and AIDS awareness
	Educate workers on the dangers of open and/or unattended fires;	C	Proof of fire toolbox talk was provided to the auditor to confirm that workers were educated on the dangers of open and/or unattended fires.
	A staff attendance register of all staff to have received environmental awareness training must be available.	C	Monthly environmental training attendance records were provided, although in some sessions, the number of attendees exceeded the recommended limit of 20 personnel.
	Course material must be available and presented in appropriate languages that all staff can understand	C	Environmental awareness training material for the above mentioned topics were provided.
5.2	**SITE ESTABLISHMENT DEVELOPMENT**		

	A method statement must be provided by the contractor prior to any onsite activity that includes the layout of the construction camp in the form of a plan showing the location of key infrastructure and services (where applicable), including but not limited to offices, overnight vehicle parking areas, stores, the workshop, stockpile and lay down areas, hazardous materials storage areas (including fuels), the batching plant (if one is located at the construction camp), designated access routes, equipment cleaning areas and the placement of staff accommodation, cooking and ablution facilities, waste and wastewater management;	C	The contractor submitted a detailed method statement before starting work, outlining the layout of the construction camp and key infrastructure, all in compliance with safety standards.
	Location of construction camps must be within approved area to ensure that the site does not impact on sensitive areas identified in the environmental assessment or site walk through;	C	All construction camps were located within the approved area, ensuring that no sensitive areas identified during the environmental assessment or site walk-through were impacted.
	Sites must be located where possible on previously disturbed areas	C	The site was selected in locations where possible on previously disturbed areas, minimizing environmental disturbance and facilitating efficient site management.
	The camp must be fenced in accordance with Section 5.5: Fencing and gate installation; and	C	The construction camp was fenced in accordance with Section 5.5: Fencing and gate installation, ensuring adequate security and access control.
	The use of existing accommodation for contractor staff, where possible, is encouraged.	C	The use of existing accommodation for contractor staff was utilized wherever possible, in line with project guidelines and to promote sustainability.
5.3	**ACCESS RESTRICTED AREAS**		
	Identification of access restricted areas is to be informed by the environmental assessment, site walk through, and any additional areas identified during development;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	Erect, demarcate and maintain a temporary barrier with clear signage around the perimeter of any access restricted area, colour coding could be used if appropriate; and	C	Dermacation and signage were used to restrict access to restricted areas
	Unauthorised access and development related activity inside access restricted areas is prohibited	C	Authorisation was required to access to restricted areas
5.4	**ACCESS ROADS**		
	An access agreement must be formalised and signed by the DPM, Contractor and landowner before commencing with the activities;	C	Access to the servitude and tower positions was successfully negotiated with the relevant landowner. All access routes and activities were strictly confined to the assessed and authorised areas, ensuring compliance with the approved environmental authorisation and minimising any potential impacts on surrounding properties.
	The access roads to tower positions must be signposted after access has been negotiated and before the commencement of the activities;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	All private roads used for access to the servitude must be maintained and upon completion of the works, be left in at least the original condition	C	The contractor confirmed that access roads to tower positions were signposted prior to the commencement of activities, ensuring clear and effective signage for safety and operational purposes.
	All contractors must be made aware of all the access routes.	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	Any access route deviation from that in the written agreement must be closed and re-vegetated immediately, at the contractor's expense;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	Maximum use of both existing servitudes and existing roads must be made to minimise further disturbance through the development of new roads;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity

	In circumstances where private roads must be used, the condition of the said roads must be recorded in accordance with section 4.9: photographic record; prior to use and the condition thereof agreed by the landowner, the DPM, and the contractor;	C	The project adhered to the requirement of maximising the use of existing servitudes and roads, with no new access roads developed during the activity.
	Access roads in flattish areas must follow fence lines and tree belts to avoid fragmentation of vegetated areas or croplands;	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
	Access roads must only be developed on pre-planned and approved roads.	N/A	no new access roads were developed during the activity
5.5	**FENCING AND GATE INSTALLATION**		
	Use existing gates provided to gain access to all parts of the area authorised for development, where possible;	C	The existing gates were used to gain access to all parts of the area authorised for development wherever possible.
	Existing and new gates to be recorded and documented in accordance with section 4.9: photographic record;	C	Photographic evidence was provided to the auditor to confirm that existing and new gates were recorded and documented in accordance with Section 4.9
	All gates must be fitted with locks and be kept locked at all times during the development phase, unless otherwise agreed with the landowner;	C	All gates were fitted with locks and were kept locked at all times during the development phase, except where alternative arrangements were formally agreed upon with the landowner.
	At points where the line crosses an existing fence in which there is no suitable gate within the extent of the line servitude, on the instruction of the DPM, a gate must be installed at the approval of the landowner;	C	The contractor ensured that at points where the line crossed existing fences without suitable gates within the extent of the line servitude, gates were installed in accordance with the DPM's .
	Care must be taken that the gates must be so erected that there is a gap of no more than 100 mm between the bottom of the gate and the ground;	C	The gates were erected such that there was no more than 100 mm gap between the bottom of the gate and the ground.
	Where gates are installed in jackal proof fencing, a suitable reinforced concrete sill must be provided beneath the gate;	N/A	This requirement was not applicable, as no gates were installed within jackal-proof fencing.

	Original tension must be maintained in the fence wires;	N/A	This requirement was not applicable, as no fence wires requiring tensioning were installed or adjusted during the development.
	All gates installed in electrified fencing must be re-electrified;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	All demarcation fencing and barriers must be maintained in good working order for the duration of overhead transmission and distribution electricity infrastructure development activities;	C	The demarcation fencing and barriers were maintained in good working order throughout the duration of the overhead transmission and distribution electricity infrastructure development activities, ensuring continuous safety and compliance with project requirements.
	Fencing must be erected around the camp, batching plants, hazardous storage areas, and all designated access restricted areas, where appropriate and would not cause harm to the sensitive flora;	C	Fencing and barriers around the camp, batching plants, hazardous storage areas, and all restricted access zones were maintained in good working order throughout the duration of the overhead transmission and distribution infrastructure activities.
	Any temporary fencing to restrict the movement of livestock must only be erected with the permission of the landowner.	C	Temporary fencing to restrict livestock movement was erected only with the landowner's permission.
	All fencing must be developed of high-quality material bearing the SABS mark;	C	All fencing used high-quality materials
	The use of razor wire as fencing must be avoided as far as possible;	C	The use of razor wire was avoided .
	Fenced areas with gate access must remain locked after hours, during weekends and on holidays if staff is away from site. Site security will be required at all times;	C	Fenced areas with gates were kept locked outside working hours, during weekends, and on holidays if staff were absent, with security maintained at all times.
	On completion of the development phase all temporary fences are to be removed;	C	Upon completion of the development phase, all temporary fences were removed.
	The contractor must ensure that all fence uprights are appropriately removed, ensuring that no uprights are cut at ground level but rather removed completely.	C	All fence uprights were properly removed without cutting at ground level, but rather by complete extraction.

5.6	**WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT**		
	All abstraction points or bore holes must be registered with the DWS and suitable water meters installed to ensure that the abstracted volumes are measured on a daily basis;	C	Monthly registers was provided to the auditor to confirm that all abstraction points or boreholes were registered with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), or that suitable water meters were installed to measure abstracted volumes on a daily basis.
	The Contractor must ensure the following: a. The vehicle abstracting water from a river does not enter or cross it and does not operate from within the river; b. No damage occurs to the river bed or banks and that the abstraction of water does not entail stream diversion activities; and c. All reasonable measures to limit pollution or sedimentation of the downstream watercourse are implemented.	C	The contractor ensured that vehicles abstracting water did not enter, cross, or operate from within the river. No damage occurred to the river bed or banks, and no stream diversion activities were undertaken. Furthermore, all reasonable measures were implemented to prevent pollution and limit sedimentation of the downstream watercourse.
	Ensure water conservation is being practiced by: a. Minimising water use during cleaning of equipment; b. Undertaking regular audits of water systems; and c. Including a discussion on water usage and conservation during environmental awareness training. d. The use of grey water is encouraged.	C	Water conservation measures were implemented by minimising water use during the cleaning of equipment, conducting regular audits of water systems, and including water usage and conservation in environmental awareness training. In addition, the use of grey water was encouraged where feasible.
5.7	**STORM AND WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT**		
	Runoff from the cement/concrete batching areas must be strictly controlled, and contaminated water must be collected, stored and either treated or disposed of off-site, at a location approved by the project manager;	C	Runoff from the cement/concrete batching areas was strictly controlled. Contaminated water was collected, stored, and either treated or disposed of off-site at a location approved by the Project Manager.
	All spillage of oil onto concrete surfaces must be controlled by	C	All oil spillages on concrete surfaces were controlled using approved absorbent materials. The used absorbent material was disposed of at an appropriate licensed waste disposal facility.

	the use of an approved absorbent material and the used absorbent material disposed of at an appropriate waste disposal facility;		
	Natural stormwater runoff not contaminated during the development and clean water can be discharged directly to watercourses and water bodies, subject to the Project Manager's approval and support by the ECO;	C	Natural stormwater runoff that was not contaminated during the development was discharged directly to watercourses and water bodies, subject to approval by the Project Manager and with support from the ECO.
	Water that has been contaminated with suspended solids, such as soils and silt, may be released into watercourses or water bodies only once all suspended solids have been removed from the water by settling out these solids in settlement ponds. The release of settled water back into the environment must be subject to the Project Manager's approval and support by the ECO.	C	Water contaminated with suspended solids such as soils and silt was only released into watercourses or water bodies after all suspended solids were removed through settlement in settlement ponds. The release of settled water back into the environment was undertaken with the approval of the Project Manager and support from the ECO.
5.8	**SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**		
	All measures regarding waste management must be undertaken using an integrated waste management approach;	C	Waste management was integrated into the project in line with waste minimisation principles. Measures for waste reduction, re-use and recycling were implemented where feasible. All solid waste was disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20(b) of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008.
	Sufficient, covered waste collection bins (scavenger and weatherproof) must be provided;	C	Sufficient, covered waste collection bins, including scavenger-proof and weatherproof options, were provided throughout the site to ensure proper waste containment and prevent environmental contamination.

	A suitably positioned and clearly demarcated waste collection site must be identified and provided;	C	A suitably positioned and clearly demarcated waste collection site was identified and established to facilitate organised waste storage and collection.
	The waste collection site must be maintained in a clean and orderly manner;	C	The waste collection site was maintained in a clean, tidy, and orderly manner to promote hygiene and environmental safety.
	Waste must be segregated into separate bins and clearly marked for each waste type for recycling and safe disposal;	C	Waste is segregated into clearly marked bins designated for specific waste types, including recyclables and non-recyclables, to ensure safe disposal and promote recycling efforts.
	Staff must be trained in waste segregation;	C	All staff members have received training on waste segregation procedures to ensure proper handling, disposal, and recycling of waste materials.
	Bins must be emptied regularly;	C	Waste bins are emptied regularly to prevent overflow, reduce odour, and maintain cleanliness within the waste management system.
	General waste produced onsite must be disposed of at registered waste disposal sites/ recycling company;	C	All general waste produced onsite is disposed of at registered waste disposal facilities or recycling companies that comply with applicable environmental regulations.
	Hazardous waste must be disposed of at a registered waste disposal site;	C	Hazardous waste generated onsite is disposed of exclusively at registered hazardous waste disposal sites that meet regulatory standards.
	Certificates of safe disposal for general, hazardous and recycled waste must be maintained.	C	Certificates of safe disposal for all general waste, hazardous waste, and recycled materials are maintained as records to demonstrate compliance with waste management regulations.
5.9	**PROTECTION OF WATERCOURSES AND ESTUARIES**		

	All watercourses must be protected from direct or indirect spills of pollutants such as solid waste, sewage, cement, oils, fuels, chemicals, aggregate tailings, wash and contaminated water or organic material resulting from the Contractor's activities;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	In the event of a spill, prompt action must be taken to clear the polluted or affected areas;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	Where possible, no development equipment must traverse any seasonal or permanent wetland	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	No return flow into the estuaries must be allowed and no disturbance of the Estuarine Functional Zone should occur;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	Development of permanent watercourse or estuary crossing must only be undertaken where no alternative access to tower position is available;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.

	There must not be any impact on the long-term morphological dynamics of watercourses or estuaries;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	Existing crossing points must be favoured over the creation of new crossings (including temporary access)	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	When working in or near any watercourse or estuary, the following environmental controls and consideration must be taken: a) Water levels during the period of construction; No altering of the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse b) During the execution of the works, appropriate measures to prevent pollution and contamination of the riparian environment must be implemented e.g. including ensuring that construction equipment is well maintained; c) Where earthwork is being undertaken in close proximity to any watercourse, slopes must be stabilised using suitable materials, i.e. sandbags or geotextile fabric, to prevent sand and rock from entering the channel; and d) Appropriate rehabilitation and re-vegetation measures for the watercourse banks must be implemented timeously. In this regard, the banks should be appropriately and incrementally stabilised as soon as development allows	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.

5.10	**VEGETATION CLEARING**		
	Indigenous vegetation which does not interfere with the development must be left undisturbed;	C	Minimal vegetation clearance was witnessed by the auditors on site.
	Protected or endangered species may occur on or near the development site. Special care should be taken not to damage such species;	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
	Search, rescue, and replanting of all protected and endangered species likely to be damaged during project development must be identified by the relevant specialist and completed prior to any development or clearing;	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
	Permits for removal must be obtained from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) and the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) prior to the cutting or clearing of the affected species, and they must be filed;	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
	The Environmental Audit Report must confirm that all identified species have been rescued and replanted and that the location of replanting is compliant with conditions of approvals;	C	ECO report dated January 2024 confirmed that all identified species were rescued and replanted, or that the replanting locations complied with the conditions of the relevant approvals.
	Trees felled due to construction must be documented and form part of the Environmental Audit Report;	N/A	No trees were felled due to construction

	Rivers and watercourses must be kept clear of felled trees, vegetation cuttings and debris;	N/A	Not applicable, as the site and all project activities were located outside the delineated buffer zones of any watercourses, wetlands, or estuaries. No construction works were undertaken in or near these environments. Accordingly, there was no risk of impact on watercourses, estuaries, or associated buffer zones.
	Only a registered pest control operator may apply herbicides on a commercial basis and commercial application must be carried out under the supervision of a registered pest control operator that is appropriately trained;	C	Certificate of a registered pest controller was provided to the auditor to confirm that herbicides were applied only by a registered pest control operator.
	A daily register must be kept of all relevant details of herbicide usage;	N/A	No proof was provided to the auditor to confirm that a daily register of all relevant herbicide usage details was kept.
	No herbicides must be used in estuaries;	N/A	This condition is not applicable to the project site
	All protected species and sensitive vegetation not removed must be clearly marked and such areas fenced off in accordance to Section 5.3: Access restricted areas.	N/A	The condition regarding marking and fencing off protected species and sensitive vegetation was not applicable, as the site and activities did not affect any protected species or sensitive vegetation within the area requiring restricted access.
	Vegetation that does not grow high enough to cause interference with overhead transmission and distribution infrastructures, or cause a fire hazard to any plantation, must not be cut, or trimmed unless it is growing in the road access area, and then only at the discretion of the Project Manager;	N/A	The condition regarding cutting or trimming vegetation was not applicable, as there was no vegetation growing in the road access areas that posed a risk to overhead transmission or distribution infrastructure, or a fire hazard to plantations.
	Where clearing for access purposes is essential, the maximum width to be cleared within the servitude must be in accordance to distance as agreed between the landowner and the EA holder	C	Where clearing for access purposes was essential, the maximum width cleared within the servitude was in accordance with the distance agreed between the landowner and the EA holder.

	Alien invasive vegetation must be removed according to a plan (in line with relevant municipal and provincial procedures, guidelines, and recommendations) and disposed of at a recognised waste disposal facility;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Vegetation must be trimmed where it is likely to intrude on the minimum vegetation clearance distance (MVCD) or will intrude on this distance before the next scheduled clearance. MVCD is determined from SANS 10280;	C	Vegetation was trimmed where it was likely to intrude on the minimum vegetation clearance distance (MVCD) or could intrude before the next scheduled clearance. MVCD was determined in accordance with SANS 10280.
	Debris resulting from clearing and pruning must be disposed of at a recognised waste disposal facility, unless the landowners wish to retain the cut vegetation	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	In the case of the development of new overhead transmission and distribution infrastructures, a one metre “trace-line” must be cut through the vegetation for stringing purposes only and no vehicle access must be cleared along the ”trace-line”. Alternative methods of stringing that limit impact to the environment must always be considered.	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
5.11	**PROTECTION OF FAUNA**		
	No interference with livestock must occur without the landowner’s written consent and with the landowner or a person representing the landowner being present;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	The breeding sites of raptors and other wild bird species must be taken into consideration during the planning of the development programme;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility

	Breeding sites must be kept intact and disturbance to breeding birds must be avoided. Special care must be taken where nestlings or fledglings are present;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	Nesting sites on existing parallel lines must documented;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	Special recommendations of the avian specialist must be adhered to at all times to prevent unnecessary disturbance of birds;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	Bird guards and diverters must be installed on the new line as per the recommendations of the specialist;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	No poaching must be tolerated under any circumstances. All animal dens in close proximity to the works areas must be marked as Access restricted areas;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	No deliberate or intentional killing of fauna is allowed;	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	In areas where snakes are abundant, snake deterrents are to be deployed on the pylons to prevent snakes climbing up, being electrocuted, and causing power outages; and	T/N	This condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV facility
	No Threatened or Protected species (ToPs) and/or protected fauna as listed according NEMBA (Act No. 10 of 2004) and relevant provincial ordinances may be removed and/or relocated without appropriate authorisations/permits	C	The applicant has obtained a search and rescue and removal permit (No:202308000013270) for Species of Conservation Concern found within the development footprint prior to the commencement of the proposed development.
5.12	**PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES**		
	Identify, demarcate, and prevent impact to all known sensitive heritage features on site in accordance with the No-Go procedure in Section 5.3: Access restricted areas;	N/A	No heritage resources were found on site during construction.

	Carry out general monitoring of excavations for potential fossils, artefacts, and material of heritage importance;	N/A	No heritage resources were found on site during construction.
	All work must cease immediately, if any human remains and/or other archaeological, palaeontological, and historical material are uncovered. Such material, if exposed, must be reported to the nearest museum, archaeologist/ palaeontologist(or the South African Police Services), so that a systematic and professional investigation can be undertaken. Sufficient time must be allowed to remove/collect such material before development recommences.	N/A	No heritage resources were found on site during construction.
5.13	**SAFETY OF THE PUBLIC**		
	Identify fire hazards, demarcate, and restrict public access to these areas as well as notify the local authority of any potential threats e.g., large brush stockpiles, fuels, etc.;	N/A	This condition is not applicable to the project site
	All unattended open excavations must be adequately fenced or demarcated;	C	All unattended open excavations were adequately fenced or demarcated to prevent accidental entry.
	Adequate protective measures must be implemented to prevent unauthorised access to and climbing of partly constructed towers and protective scaffolding;	C	Adequate protective measures were implemented to prevent unauthorised access to and climbing of partly constructed towers and protective scaffolding.
	Ensure structures vulnerable to high winds are secured;	C	Structures that were vulnerable to high winds were secured to prevent movement or collapse.
	Maintain an incidents and complaints register in which all incidents or complaints involving the public are logged.	C	An incidents and complaints register was maintained, and all incidents or complaints involving the public were documented accordingly.
5.14	**SANITATION**		

	Mobile chemical toilets are installed onsite if no other ablution facilities are available; The use of ablution facilities and or mobile toilets must be used at all times and no indiscriminate use of the veld for the purposes of ablutions must be permitted under any circumstances;	C	Mobile chemical toilets were installed onsite where no other facilities were available, and their use was mandatory at all times, with no permits for or allowance of indiscriminate veld ablutions.
	Where mobile chemical toilets are required, the following must be ensured: a) Toilets are located no closer than 100 m to any watercourse or water body; b) Toilets are secured to the ground to prevent them from toppling due to wind or any other cause; c) No spillage occurs when the toilets are cleaned or emptied and the contents are managed in accordance with the EMPr; d) Toilets have an external closing mechanism and are closed and secured from the outside when not in use to prevent toilet paper from being blown out; e) Toilets are emptied before long weekends and workers holidays, and must be locked after working hours; f) Toilets are serviced regularly and the ECO must inspect toilets to ensure compliance to health standards;	C	The toilets were strategically located at least 100 meters from watercourses or water bodies, securely anchored to prevent toppling, and maintained in a manner that prevented spillage during cleaning or emptying, with waste managed according to the EMPr. They featured external closing mechanisms, ensuring they were properly closed and secured when not in use to prevent the dispersal of toilet paper. The toilets were emptied ahead of long weekends and holidays, locked after working hours, and regularly serviced, with inspections conducted by the Environmental Control Officer to ensure compliance with health standards.
	A copy of the waste disposal certificates must be maintained.	C	A copy of the waste disposal certificates was maintained.
5.15	**PREVENTION OF DISEASE**		
	Undertake environmentally friendly pest control in the camp area;	C	Environmentally friendly pest control was undertaken in the camp area
	Ensure that the workforce is sensitised to the effects of sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/ AIDS;	C	The workforce was sensitised to the effects of sexually transmitted diseases, with specific focus on HIV/AIDS.

	The Contractor must ensure that information posters on HIV/ AIDS are displayed in the Contractor Camp area;	C	HIV/AIDS information posters were displayed in the Contractor Camp area.
	Information and education relating to sexually transmitted diseases to be made available to both construction workers and local community, where applicable;	C	Information and education relating to sexually transmitted diseases were made available to construction workers and, where applicable, the local community, and an HIV/AIDS awareness session was held.
	Free condoms must be made available to all staff on site at central points;	C	Free condoms were made available to all staff on site at central points.
	Medical support must be made available;	C	Medical support was made available
	Provide access to Voluntary HIV Testing and Counselling Services.	C	Access to Voluntary HIV Testing and Counselling Services was provided.
5.16	**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**		
	Compile an Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) prior to the commencement of the proposed project	C	An Emergency Response Action Plan (ERAP) was compiled prior to the commencement of the proposed project.
	The Emergency Plan must deal with accidents, potential spillages, and fires in line with relevant legislation;	C	The Emergency Plan addressed accidents, potential spillages, and fires in accordance with relevant legislation.
	All staff must be made aware of emergency procedures as part of environmental awareness training;	C	All staff were made aware of emergency procedures.
	The relevant local authority must be made aware of a fire as soon as it starts;	T/N	Condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar Facility
	In the event of emergency, necessary mitigation measures to contain the spill or leak must be implemented (see Hazardous Substances section 5.17).	T/N	Condition is noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar Facility
5.17	**HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**		
	The use and storage of hazardous substances to be minimised and non-hazardous and non-toxic alternatives substituted where possible;	C	The use and storage of hazardous substances was minimised, and non-hazardous and non-toxic alternatives were substituted where possible.

	All hazardous substances must be stored in suitable containers as defined in the Method Statement;	C	All hazardous substances were stored in suitable containers as defined in the Method Statement.
	Containers must be clearly marked to indicate contents, quantities, and safety requirements;	C	Containers were clearly marked to indicate contents, quantities, and safety requirements.
	All storage areas must be bunded. The bunded area must be of sufficient capacity to contain a spill / leak from the stored containers;	C	All storage areas were bunded, with sufficient capacity to contain a spill or leak from the stored containers.
	Bunded areas to be suitably lined with a SABS approved liner;	C	Bunded areas were lined with a SABS-approved liner.
	An Alphabetical Hazardous Chemical Substance (HCS) control sheet must be drawn up and kept up to date on a continuous basis;	C	An alphabetical Hazardous Chemical Substance (HCS) control sheet was drawn up and kept up to date continuously.
	All hazardous chemicals that will be used on site must have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS);	C	Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) were available for all hazardous chemicals used on site.
	All employees working with HCS must be trained in the safe use of the substance and according to the safety data sheet	C	All employees working with HCS were trained in the safe use of substances in accordance with the relevant safety data sheets.
	Employees handling hazardous substances / materials must be aware of the potential impacts and follow appropriate safety measures. Appropriate personal protective equipment must be made available;	C	Employees handling hazardous substances/materials were made aware of potential impacts and followed appropriate safety measures; personal protective equipment was provided.
	The Contractor must ensure that diesel and other liquid fuel, oil and hydraulic fluid is stored in appropriate storage tanks or in bowsers	C	Diesel, oil, hydraulic fluid, and other liquid fuels were stored in appropriate storage tanks or bowsers.
	The tanks/ bowsers must be situated on a smooth impermeable surface (concrete) with a permanent bund. The impermeable lining must extend to the crest of the bund and the volume inside the bund must be 130% of the total capacity of all the storage tanks/ bowsers (110% statutory requirement plus an allowance for rainfall);	C	Storage tanks/bowsers were situated on a smooth, impermeable concrete surface with a permanent bund; the bund capacity exceeded 130% of the total tank capacity

	The floor of the bund must be sloped, draining to an oil separator;	C	The floor of the bund was sloped to drain into an oil separator.
	Provision must be made for refuelling at the storage area by protecting the soil with an impermeable groundcover. Where dispensing equipment is used, a drip tray must be used to ensure small spills are contained;	C	Refuelling at the storage area was conducted over an impermeable groundcover, with drip trays used where dispensing equipment was in operation.
	All empty externally dirty drums must be stored on a drip tray or within a bunded area;	C	Empty externally dirty drums were stored on drip trays or within bunded areas.
	No unauthorised access into the hazardous substances storage areas must be permitted;	C	No unauthorised access to hazardous substance storage areas was permitted.
	No smoking must be allowed within the vicinity of the hazardous storage areas;	C	No smoking was allowed within the vicinity of hazardous substance storage areas.
	Adequate fire-fighting equipment must be made available at all hazardous storage areas;	C	Adequate fire-fighting equipment was available at all hazardous storage areas.
	Where refuelling away from the dedicated refuelling station is required, a mobile refuelling unit must be used. Appropriate ground protection such as drip trays must be used;	C	Mobile refuelling units were used when refuelling away from the dedicated station, with appropriate ground protection such as drip trays.
	An appropriately sized spill kit kept onsite relevant to the scale of the activity/s involving the use of hazardous substance must be available at all times;	C	Appropriately sized spill kits relevant to the scale of activities involving hazardous substances were available at all times.
	The responsible operator must have the required training to make use of the spill kit in emergency situations;	C	Responsible operators were trained to use the spill kit in emergency situations.
	An appropriate number of spill kits must be available and must be located in all areas where activities are being undertaken;	C	An appropriate number of spill kits were available and located in all areas where activities were being undertaken.

	In the event of a spill, contaminated soil must be collected in containers and stored in a central location and disposed of according to the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008. Refer to Section 5.7 for procedures concerning storm and waste water management and 5.8 for solid and hazardous waste management.	C	Minor spillages occurred on site and were promptly cleaned. Contaminated soil was collected in containers, stored in a central location, and disposed of in accordance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008, following the procedures outlined in Sections 5.7 and 5.8 for storm/waste water and solid/hazardous waste management.
5.18	**WORKSHOP, EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE**		
	Where possible and practical all maintenance of vehicles and equipment must take place in the workshop area	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	During servicing of vehicles or equipment, especially where emergency repairs are effected outside the workshop area, a suitable drip tray must be used to prevent spills onto the soil.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Leaking equipment must be repaired immediately or be removed from site to facilitate repair;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Workshop areas must be monitored for oil and fuel spills;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Appropriately sized spill kit kept onsite relevant to the scale of the activity taking place must be available;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	The workshop area must have a bunded concrete slab that is sloped to facilitate runoff into a collection sump or suitable oil /water separator where maintenance work on vehicles and equipment can be performed;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Water drainage from the workshop must be contained and managed in accordance with Section 5.7: storm and waste water management.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.19	**BATCHING PLANTS**		
	Concrete mixing must be carried out on an impermeable surface;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Batching plants areas must be fitted with a containment facility for the collection of cement laden water.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Dirty water from the batching plant must be contained to prevent soil and groundwater contamination	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Bagged cement must be stored in an appropriate facility and at least 10 m away from any water courses, gullies and drains;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	A washout facility must be provided for washing of concrete associated equipment. Water used for washing must be restricted;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Hardened concrete from the washout facility or concrete mixer can either be reused or disposed of at an appropriate licensed disposal facility;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Empty cement bags must be secured with adequate binding material if these will be temporarily stored on site;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Sand and aggregates containing cement must be kept damp to prevent the generation of dust (Refer to Section 5.20: Dust emissions)	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Any excess sand, stone and cement must be removed or reused from site on completion of construction period and disposed at a registered disposal facility;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Temporary fencing must be erected around batching plants in accordance with Section 5.5: Fencing and gate installation.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.20	**DUST EMISSIONS**		
	Take all reasonable measures to minimise the generation of dust as a result of project development activities to the satisfaction of the ECO;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Removal of vegetation must be avoided until such time as soil stripping is required, and similarly exposed surfaces must be re- vegetated or stabilised as soon as is practically possible;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Excavation, handling, and transport of erodible materials must be avoided under high wind conditions or when a visible dust plume is present;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	During high wind conditions, the ECO must evaluate the situation and make recommendations as to whether dust-damping measures are adequate, or whether working will cease altogether until the wind speed drops to an acceptable level;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Where possible, soil stockpiles must be located in sheltered areas where they are not exposed to the erosive effects of the wind;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Where erosion of stockpiles becomes a problem, erosion control measures must be implemented at the discretion of the ECO;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Vehicle speeds must not exceed 40 km/h along dust roads or 20 km/h when traversing unconsolidated and non-vegetated areas;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Straw stabilisation must be applied at a rate of one bale/10 m² and harrowed into the top 100 mm of top material, for all completed earthworks;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	For significant areas of excavation or exposed ground, dust suppression measures must be used to minimise the spread of dust	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.21	**BLASTING**		

	Any blasting activity must be conducted by a suitably licensed blasting contractor; and	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Notification of surrounding landowners, emergency services site personnel of blasting activity 24 hours prior to such activity taking place on Site.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.22	**NOISE**		
	The Contractor must keep noise level within acceptable limits. Restrict the use of sound amplification equipment for communication and emergency only;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	All vehicles and machinery must be fitted with appropriate silencing technology and must be properly maintained;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Any complaints received by the Contractor regarding noise must be recorded and communicated. Where possible or applicable, provide transport to and from the site on a daily basis for construction workers;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Develop a Code of Conduct for the construction phase in terms of behaviour of construction staff. Operating hours as determined by the environmental authorisation are adhered to during the development phase. Where not defined, it must be ensured that development activities must still meet the impact management outcome related to noise management.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.23	**FIRE PREVENTION**		
	Designate smoking areas where the fire hazard could be regarded as insignificant;	C	Smoking areas were designated where the fire hazard was regarded as insignificant.
	Firefighting equipment must be available on all vehicles located on site;	C	Firefighting equipment was available on all vehicles located on site.

	The local Fire Protection Agency (FPA) must be informed of construction activities;	C	The local Fire Protection Agency (FPA) was informed of construction activities.
	Contact numbers for the FPA and emergency services must be communicated in environmental awareness training and displayed at a central location on site; Two-way swop of contact details between ECO and FPA.	C	Contact numbers for the FPA and emergency services were communicated in environmental awareness training and displayed at a central location on site.
5.24	**STOCKPILING AND STOCKPILE AREAS**		
	All material that is excavated during the project development phase (either during piling (if required) or earthworks) must be stored appropriately on site in order to minimise impacts to watercourses, watercourses, and water bodies;	C	All material that was excavated during the project development phase, whether during piling or earthworks, was stored appropriately on site to minimise impacts to watercourses and water bodies.
	All stockpiled material must be maintained and kept clear of weeds and alien vegetation growth by undertaking regular weeding and control methods;	C	All stockpiled material was maintained and kept clear of weeds and alien vegetation.
	Topsoil stockpiles must not exceed 2 m in height;	C	Topsoil stockpiles did not exceed 2 metres in height.
	During periods of strong winds and heavy rain, the stockpiles must be covered with appropriate material (e.g., cloth, tarpaulin etc.);	C	During periods of strong winds and heavy rain, all stockpiles were covered with appropriate materials such as tarpaulins to prevent dispersal.
	Where possible, sandbags (or similar) must be placed at the bases of the stockpiled material in order to prevent erosion of the material.	C	Sandbags (or similar measures) were placed at the bases of stockpiled material where possible to prevent erosion and runoff of the material.
5.25	**CIVIL WORKS**		
	Where terracing is required, topsoil must be collected and retained for the purpose of reuse later to rehabilitate disturbed areas not covered by yard stone;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Areas to be rehabilitated include terrace embankments and areas outside the high voltage yards;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Where required, all sloped areas must be stabilised to ensure proper rehabilitation is effected and erosion is controlled;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	These areas can be stabilised using design structures or vegetation as specified in the design to prevent erosion of embankments. The contract design specifications must be adhered to and implemented strictly;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Rehabilitation of the disturbed areas must be managed in accordance with Section 5.35: Landscaping and rehabilitation;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	All excess spoil generated during terracing activities must be disposed of in an appropriate manner and at a recognised landfill site; and	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Spoil can however be used for landscaping purposes and must be covered with a layer of 150 mm topsoil for rehabilitation purposes.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.26	**EXCAVATION OF FOUNDATION, CABLE TRENCHING AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**		
	All excess spoil generated during foundation excavation must be disposed of in an appropriate manner and at a licensed landfill site, if not used for backfilling purposes;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Spoil can however be used for landscaping purposes and must be covered with a layer of 150 mm topsoil for rehabilitation purposes;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Management of equipment for excavation purposes must be undertaken in accordance with Section 5.18: Workshop equipment maintenance and storage; and	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Hazardous substances spills from equipment must be managed in accordance with Section 5.17: Hazardous substances	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

5.27	**INSTALLATION OF FOUNDATIONS, CABLE TRENCHING AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**		
	Batching of cement to be undertaken in accordance with Section 5.19: Batching plants; an	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Residual solid waste must be disposed of in accordance with Section 5.8: Solid waste and hazardous management.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.28	**INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT (CIRCUIT BREAKERS, CURRENT TRANSFORMERS, ISOLATORS, INSULATORS, SURGE ARRESTORS, VOLTAGE TRANSFORMERS, EARTH SWITCHES?**		
	Management of dust must be conducted in accordance with Section 5. 20: Dust emissions;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Management of equipment used for installation must be conducted in accordance with Section 5.18: Workshop, equipment maintenance and storage;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Management hazardous substances and any associated spills must be conducted in accordance with Section 5.17: Hazardous substances; and	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Residual solid waste must be recycled or disposed of in accordance with Section 5.8: Solid waste and hazardous management.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.29	**STEELWORK ASSEMBLY AND ERECTION**		
	During assembly, care must be taken to ensure that no wasted/unused materials are left on site e.g., bolts and nuts	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Emergency repairs due to breakages of equipment must be managed in accordance with Section 5. 18: Workshop, equipment maintenance and storage and Section 5.16: Emergency procedures.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.30	**CABLING AND STRINGING**		
	Residual solid waste (off cuts etc.) shall be recycled or disposed of in accordance with Section 6.8: Solid waste and hazardous Management;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	Management of equipment used for installation shall be conducted in accordance with Section 5.18: Workshop, equipment maintenance and storage;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Management hazardous substances and any associated spills shall be conducted in accordance with Section 5.17: Hazardous substances.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.31	**TESTING AND COMMISSIONING (ALL EQUIPMENT TESTING, EARTHING SYSTEM, SYSTEM INTEGRATION)**		
	Residual solid waste must be recycled or disposed of in accordance with Section 5.8: Solid waste and hazardous management.	C	Residual solid waste was recycled or disposed of in accordance with Section 5.8: Solid Waste and Hazardous Management, and no non-compliance was recorded.
5.32	**SOCIO-ECONOMIC**		
	Develop and implement communication strategies to facilitate public participation;	C	Community Investment Plan – 2025 was provided to the auditor to confirm that communication strategies were developed and implemented to facilitate public participation.
	Develop and implement a collaborative and constructive approach to conflict resolution as part of the external stakeholder engagement process;	C	Community Development and Stakeholder Engagement presentation and images were provided to the auditor to confirm that a collaborative and constructive approach to conflict resolution was developed and implemented as part of the external stakeholder engagement process.
	Sustain continuous communication and liaison with neighbouring owners and residents	C	Community Development and Stakeholder Engagement was provided to the auditor to confirm that continuous communication and liaison with neighbouring owners and residents was maintained.
	Create work and training opportunities for local stakeholders; and	C	Job creation statistics were provided as proof to the auditor to confirm that work and training opportunities were created for local stakeholders.

	Where feasible, no workers, with the exception of security personnel, must be permitted to stay over-night on the site. This would reduce the risk to local farmers.	C	Working hours were provided as proof to the auditor to confirm that, workers (excluding security personnel) were not permitted to stay overnight on the site to reduce risks to local farmers.
5.33	**TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SITE**		
	Bunds must be emptied (where applicable) and need to be undertaken in accordance with the impact management actions included in sections 5.17: management of hazardous substances and 5.18 workshop, equipment maintenance and storage;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Hazardous storage areas must be well ventilated;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Fire extinguishers must be serviced and accessible. Service records to be filed and audited at last service;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Emergency and contact details must be displayed;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Security personnel must be briefed and have the facilities to contact or be contacted by relevant management and emergency personnel;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Night hazards such as reflectors, lighting, traffic signage etc. must have been checked;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Fire hazards identified and the local authority must have been notified of any potential threats e.g., large brush stockpiles, fuels etc.;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Structures vulnerable to high winds must be secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Wind and dust mitigation must be implemented;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Cement and materials stores must have been secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Toilets must have been emptied and secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Refuse bins must have been emptied and secured;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	Drip trays must have been emptied and secured.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
5.34	**DISMANTLING OF OLD EQUIPMENT**		
	All old equipment removed during the project must be stored in such a way as to prevent pollution of the environment;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Oil containing equipment must be stored to prevent leaking or be stored on drip trays;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	All scrap steel must be stacked neatly, and any disused and broken insulators must be stored in containers;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Once material has been scrapped and the contract has been placed for removal, the disposal Contractor must ensure that any equipment containing pollution causing substances is dismantled and transported in such a way as to prevent spillage and pollution of the environment;	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	The Contractor must also be equipped to contain and clean up any pollution causing spills; and	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Disposal of unusable material must be at a licensed waste disposal site	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
5.35	**LANDSCAPING AND REHABILITATION**		
	All areas disturbed by construction activities must be subject to landscaping and rehabilitation; All spoil and waste must be disposed to a registered waste site and certificates of disposal provided;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	All slopes must be assessed for contouring, and to contour only when the need is identified in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	All slopes must be assessed for terracing, and to terrace only when the need is identified in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, No 43 of 1983;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Berms that have been created must have a slope of 1:4 and be replanted with indigenous species and grasses that approximates the original condition;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Where new access roads have crossed cultivated farmlands, that lands must be rehabilitated by ripping which must be agreed to by the holder of the EA and the landowners;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Rehabilitation of tower sites and access roads outside of farmland;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Indigenous species must be used for with species and/grasses to where it compliments or approximates the original condition;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Stockpiled topsoil must be used for rehabilitation (refer to Section 5.24: Stockpiling and stockpiled areas);	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Stockpiled topsoil must be evenly spread so as to facilitate seeding and minimise loss of soil due to erosion;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Before placing topsoil, all visible weeds from the placement area and from the topsoil must be removed;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Subsoil must be ripped before topsoil is placed;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	The rehabilitation must be timed so that rehabilitation can take place at the optimal time for vegetation establishment;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Where impacted through construction related activity, all sloped areas must be stabilised to ensure proper rehabilitation is effected and erosion is controlled;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant

	Sloped areas stabilised using design structures or vegetation as specified in the design to prevent erosion of embankments. The contract design specifications must be adhered to and implemented strictly;	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Spoil can be used for backfilling or landscaping as long as it is covered by a minimum of 150 mm of topsoil.	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
	Where required, re-vegetation including hydro-seeding can be enhanced using a vegetation seed mixture as described below. A mixture of seed can be used provided the mixture is carefully selected to ensure the following: a) Annual and perennial plants are chosen; b) Pioneer species are included; c) Species chosen must be indigenous to the area with the seeds used coming from the area; d) Root systems must have a binding effect on the soil; e) The final product must not cause an ecological imbalance in the area	T/N	The condition was noted and accepted by Damlaagte Solar PV Plant
PART C: SECTION 10. SITE SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES			
10.1	**SITE DERMACATION**		
	Implement a 40 m no-go buffer around the existing fuel pipeline located on Portion 6 of the Farm Vlakfontein 161 and Portion 3 of the Farm Willow Grange 246. No construction activities can take place within this buffer area	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
10.2	**FAUNA**		

	If parts of the facility such as the substation are to be fenced, then no electrified strands should be placed within 30 cm of the ground as some species such as tortoises are susceptible to electrocution from electric fences as they do not move away when electrocuted but rather adopt defensive behavior and are killed by repeated shocks. Alternatively, the electrified strands should be placed on the inside of the fence and not the outside.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
10.3	**AVIFAUNA**		
	Should the footprint of the substation require to be fenced, increasing the spacing between at least the top two wires (to a minimum of 30 cm) and ensuring they are correctly tensioned will reduce the snaring risk	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	No off-road driving.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Maximum use of existing roads, where possible: Ensure that construction personnel are made aware of the impacts relating to offroad driving. Construction access roads must be demarcated clearly. Undertake site inspections to verify.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Monitor the implementation of noise control mechanisms via site inspections and record and report noncompliance	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	Restricted access to the rest of the property: Ensure that the construction area is demarcated clearly and that construction personnel are made aware of these demarcations. Monitor via site inspections and report noncompliance.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
10.4	**VISUAL**		

	Install light fixtures that provide precisely directed illumination to reduce light 'spillage' beyond the immediate surrounds of the site, i.e., lights (specifically spotlights) are to be aimed away from the N1 and R59 road and areas south and west of the site.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
	The use of high pole top security lighting along the periphery of the site should be avoided. Only lights that are activated on illegal entry to the site should be used.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period
10.5	**HERITAGE AND PALEONTOLOGY**		
	A Chance Finds Procedure should be implemented when heritage finds are uncovered.	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

	If risks are manifested (accidental discovery of heritage resources) the Chance Find Procedure should be implemented: 1. Cease all works immediately; 2. Report incident to the DEO & ECO; 3. Contact an Archaeologist/ Palaeontologist to inspect the site; 4. Report incident to the Competent Authority; and 5. Employ reasonable mitigation measures in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authorities. • Only recommence operations once impacts have been mitigated. • When excavations begin the rocks must be given a cursory inspection by the Environmental Control Officer or designated person. Any fossiliferous material (plants, insects, bone, coal) should be put aside in a suitably protected place. This way the project activities will not be interrupted. • Photographs of similar fossils must be provided to the developer to assist in recognizing the fossil plants, vertebrates, invertebrates or trace fossils in the shales and mudstones. This information will be built into the EMP's training and awareness plan and procedures. • Photographs of the putative fossils can be sent to the palaeontologist for a preliminary assessment. • If there is any possible fossil material found by the developer/environmental officer, then a qualified palaeontologist subcontracted for this project, should visit the site to inspect the selected material and check the dumps where feasible. • Fossil plants or vertebrates that are considered to be of good quality or scientific interest by the Palaeontologist must be removed, catalogued and housed in a suitable institution where they can be made available for further study. Before the fossils are removed from the site a SAHRA permit must be obtained. Annual reports must be submitted to SAHRA as required by the relevant permits	N/A	This condition is out of scope of the audit period

5. Proposed Amendment to EA and EMPr

No application to the amendment of the EA and EMPr has been submitted to DEA during this audit period (**October 2025 – December 2025).**

6. Incident Management

According to Section 30 of National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), an “Incident” is defined as unexpected sudden occurrence, including a major emission, fire or explosion leading to serious danger to the public or potentially serious pollution of or detriment to the environment, whether immediate or delayed. An example would be a fire, major spill either diesel or oil, etc.

No reportable incidents were recorded during this audit period.

7. Fauna and Flora

The Invasive Species Management Plan for the Damlaagte Solar PV and Grid Project has been developed in accordance with South African legislation, specifically the Alien and Invasive Species Regulations of 2014 under the NEMBA Act. The plan outlines the study area, key activities, and a comprehensive management and monitoring programme aimed at controlling and eradicating invasive plant species that threaten local biodiversity. It categorises invasive species based on their level of threat, with strict controls on their propagation, sale, and transport. The plan emphasises the importance of early detection, regular monitoring, and follow-up control measures to prevent the spread of species such as Lantana camara, Opuntia ficus-indica, and others listed in the appendix. Overall, it provides a structured approach to minimise environmental impacts, ensuring invasive species are managed effectively throughout the project's lifespan, with continuous assessment and adjustment as needed.

8. Water Management

The holder is also sourcing water from an authorised borehole.

9. Waste Management

Minimal Hazardous Chemical Substances (HCS) are utilised and kept on site. HCS have been disposed from site by a licensed service provider (Holfontein Waste Management Facility), with license number 12/9/11/L21041312312213/3/. General waste is temporarily stored on site, where it is kept in the general waste skips before final disposal.

10. Heritage and Archaeological Management

No heritage or archaeological artefacts have been recorded for this audit period. No issue with archaeological/heritage sites/objects for this audit period. Should any such sites be discovered the relevant person on site will note the location and activity will be ceased immediately. The SAHRA (The South African Heritage Resource Association) will be informed immediately. Section 35(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act No.25 of 1999 states, “Any person who discovers archaeological or paleontological objects or material or a meteorite in the course of development or agricultural activity must immediately report the find to the responsible heritage resource authority, or to the nearest local authority offices or museum, which must immediately notify such heritage resources authority”. Employees are encouraged to be on the lookout for any archaeological or heritages objects.

10. Complaints

No complaint was recorded for this reporting period.

11. Audits (Internal/External)

The next Annual External environmental audit will be conducted in 2026. Dates to be confirmed with site.

12. Conclusion and Recommendations

From the auditing findings, it can be concluded that _Damlaagte Solar PV facility is largely compliant **(89% compliant)** with the EA & EMPr. Most conditions have been met or were not applicable at the time of the audit. Where there is non-compliance, the client should address the issues raised so that the project can be fully compliant to all the conditions that are applicable to the work being undertaken.

The following recommendations have been made after completion of the compliance audit on **25 November 2025.**

Based on the audit findings, the following recommendations are made to address non-compliances and enhance environmental management practices for the Damlaagte Solar PV facility.

The non-compliances identified highlight the need for improved documentation and adherence to environmental management protocols. Notably, the absence of proof for the notification of interested and affected parties regarding the environmental authorisation, as well as the lack of formal records for gate and fence documentation, must be addressed through proper record-keeping and submission of proof to

the relevant authorities. Additionally, the environmental audit reports were conducted beyond the prescribed thirty-day period after construction completion, which should be rectified by ensuring timely audits in future projects. It is recommended that the project team maintains comprehensive records of all notifications, documentation, and audits, and ensures compliance with reporting timelines to meet statutory requirements. Strengthening these processes will help demonstrate compliance, facilitate effective monitoring, and mitigate potential legal or regulatory risks.

Appendix A Declaration of Independence

The Environmental Assessment Practitioner General declaration:

I, Tshokologo Mangwale, declare that –

- I act as the independent environmental practitioner in this Audit;
- I will perform the work relating to the audit in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the auditee;
- I declare that there are no circumstances that may compromise my objectivity in performing such work;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental compliance audits, including knowledge of the Act, regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I have not and will not engage in, conflicting interests in the undertaking of the activity;
- I will provide the competent authority with access to all information at my disposal regarding the audit, whether such information is favourable to the auditee or not; will perform all other obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner in terms of the Regulations; and
- I realise that a false declaration is an offence in terms of regulation 48 and is punishable in terms of section 24F of the Act.

Disclosure of Vested Interest:

I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the activity other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.

Signature: 

Company: Kulani Energy (Pty) Ltd.

Date: February 2026

Appendix B – Photographic Evidence

Power station Entrance: warning and instruction signs

Power station: Rehabilitation

Overhead lines: running parallel with existing Eskom lines

 Stormwater channel	 Overhead lines and power station: Rehabilitated area