

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 113

16 FEBRUARY 2018

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)****NOTICE OF IDENTIFICATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(5)(a) AND (b) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998, OF THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN APPLYING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR LARGE SCALE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED IN TERMS OF SECTION 24(2)(a) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 WHEN OCCURRING IN GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE**

I, Bomo Edna Edith Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby in terms of section 24(5)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and Regulation 15 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (Government Notice No. R. 982, in the *Gazette* No. 38282 of 4 December 2014), provide for the procedure to be followed in applying for environmental authorisation for large scale electricity transmission and distribution development activities identified in terms of section 24(2)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as set out in the Schedule hereto.



**BOMO EDNA EDITH MOLEWA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

SCHEDULE

1. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) in South Africa has identified five Strategic Transmission Corridors that are of strategic importance for the rollout of the supporting large scale electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure in terms of Strategic Integrated Project 10: Electricity Transmission and Distribution.
2. On 17 February 2016, Cabinet approved the Strategic Transmission Corridors contained in this Notice, which support areas where long term electricity grid infrastructure will be developed and where an integrated decision-making process for applications for environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, will be followed.
3. Applications for an environmental authorisation for large scale electricity transmission and distribution facilities, when such facilities trigger activity 9 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, and where the greater part of the proposed facility is to occur in one or more such Strategic Transmission Corridors, must follow the basic assessment procedure contemplated in Regulation 19 and 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 in order to obtain environmental authorisation, as required in terms of the Act.
4. The timeframe for decision making as contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 for purposes of the applications for environmental authorisation contemplated in this Notice is 57 days.
5. For applications for environmental authorisation for large scale electricity transmission and distribution facilities contemplated in paragraph 3, routes that have been pre-negotiated with landowners must be submitted as part of such application for environmental authorisation.
6. Applications for environmental authorisation for large scale electricity transmission and distribution facilities, where the greater part of the facility falls outside a Strategic Transmission Corridor, will be considered in line with the requirements prescribed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.
7. If the greater part of the facilities contemplated in this Notice falls outside a Strategic Transmission Corridor contemplated in this Notice, the requirements as prescribed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, apply.

8. The Strategic Transmission Corridors compiled in terms of section 24(3) of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 are:
- 8.1 Central corridor;
 - 8.2 Eastern corridor;
 - 8.3 International corridor;
 - 8.4 Northern corridor; and
 - 8.5 Western corridor.
9. The boundaries of the Strategic Transmission Corridors referred to in this Notice are as indicated on the map, available from the Department of Environmental Affairs at <https://egis.environment.gov.za> – Geographic Areas

The information relating to the Strategic Transmission Corridors contained in this Notice can also be obtained from:

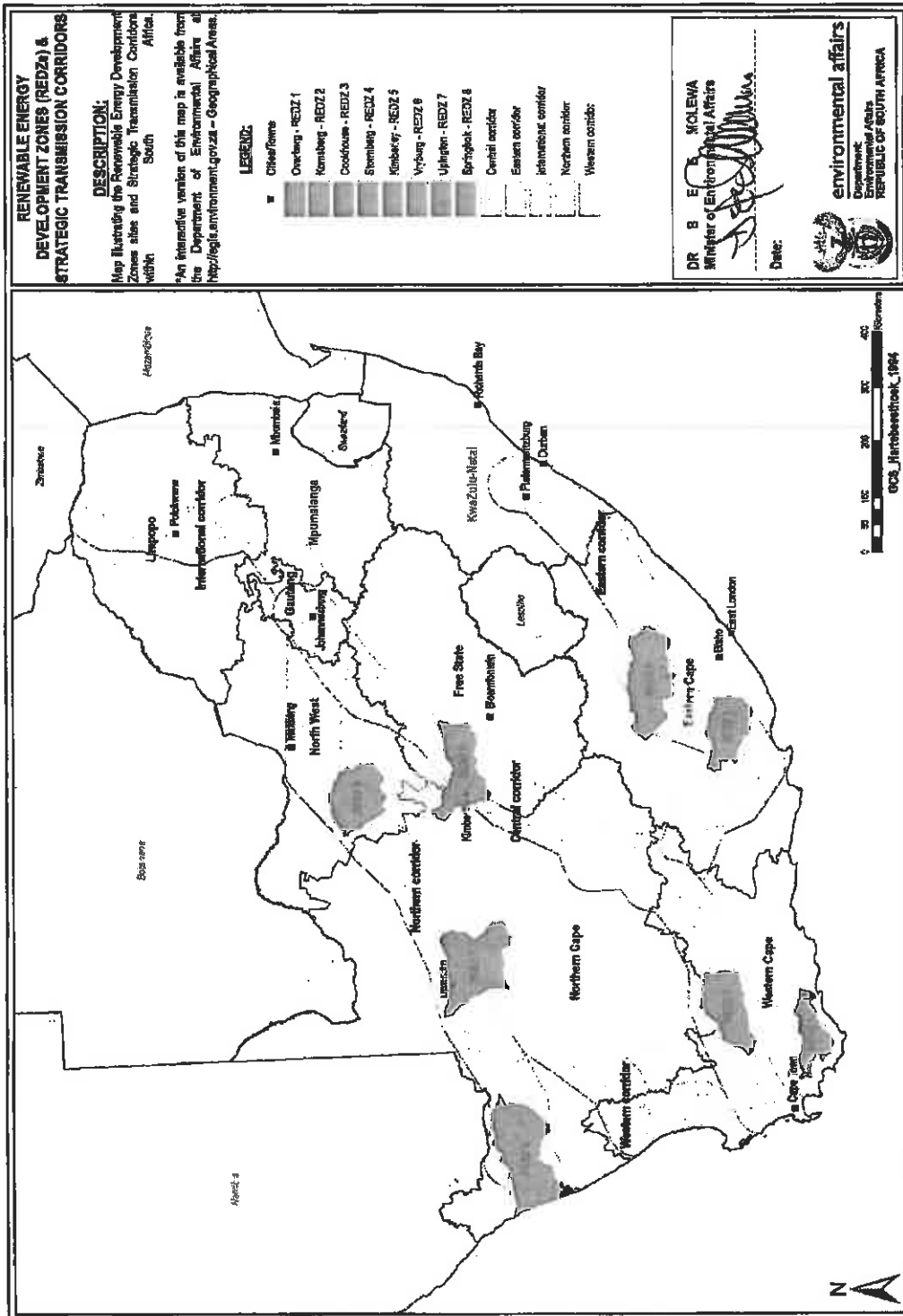
PLACE	CONTACT PERSONS	CONTACT DETAILS
Head office of the Department of Environmental Affairs	Directorate Enterprise Geospatial Information Management	GazetteMapping@environment.gov.za
	Ms Marlanie Moodley or Ms Lisa Pretorius	Direct Line: +27 12 399 8916/ 9301 Call Centre Number: +27 86 111 2468

10. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Electricity Grid Infrastructure in South Africa, 2016 can be accessed at:

<https://egi.csir.co.za/>; and
<https://egis.environment.gov.za/egi/>;

and the Gazetted Notice can be accessed at:

https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices.

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I, Bomo Edna Edith Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby, in terms of section 24(5)(a) and (b) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and Regulation 15 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, (Government Notice No. R. 982, in the Gazette No. 38282 of 4 December 2014), hereby provide for the procedure to be followed in applying for environmental authorisation for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy development activities, identified in terms of section 24(2)(a) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, as set out in the Schedule hereto.



**BOMO EDNA EDITH MOLEWA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

SCHEDULE

1. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2015 has identified 8 Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) that are of strategic importance for large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy development, including the rollout of its supporting transmission and distribution infrastructure, in terms of *Strategic Integrated Project 8: Green Energy in Support of the South African Economy*.
2. On 17 February 2016, Cabinet approved, amongst others, the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) contained in this Notice, which are of strategic importance for large scale wind and/or solar photovoltaic energy development and an integrated decision-making process for applications for environmental authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.
3. Applications for environmental authorisation for large scale wind or solar photovoltaic energy facilities, when such facilities trigger activity 1 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, and where the entire proposed facility is to occur in such Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs), must follow the basic assessment procedure contemplated in Regulation 19 and 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, in order to obtain environmental authorisation, as required in terms of the Act.
4. The timeframe for decision-making as contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 for purposes of the applications for environmental authorisation contemplated in this Notice is 57 days.
5. Applications for environmental authorisation for large scale wind or solar photovoltaic energy facilities, if being applied for outside of any Renewable Energy Development Zone, will be considered in line with the requirements as prescribed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014.
6. If any part of the facilities contemplated in this Notice falls outside a Renewable Energy Development Zone contemplated in this Notice, the requirements as prescribed in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, apply.

7. Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs) compiled in terms of section 24(3) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the applicability of each REDZ for purposes of this Notice, are as follows:

Renewable Energy Development Zone Number	Name	Applicability of REDZ
Renewable energy development zone 1	Overberg	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable energy development zone 2	Komsberg	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable energy development zone 3	Cookhouse	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable energy development zone 4	Stormberg	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable energy development zone 5	Kimberley	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable energy development zone 6	Vryburg	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable energy development zone 7	Upington	Large scale solar photovoltaic energy facilities
Renewable energy development zone 8	Springbok	Large scale wind and solar photovoltaic energy facilities

8. The boundaries of the renewable energy development zones referred to in this Notice are as indicated on the map, available from the Department of Environmental Affairs at <https://egis.environment.gov.za> – **Geographic Areas**

The information relating to the Renewable Energy Development Zones contained in this Notice can also be obtained from:

PLACE	CONTACT PERSON/S	CONTACT DETAILS
Head Office of the Department of Environmental Affairs	Directorate Enterprise Geospatial Information Management	GazetteMapping@environment.gov.za
	Ms Marlanie Moodley or Ms Lisa Pretorius	Direct Line: +27 12 399 8916/ 9301 Call Centre Number: +27 86 111 2468

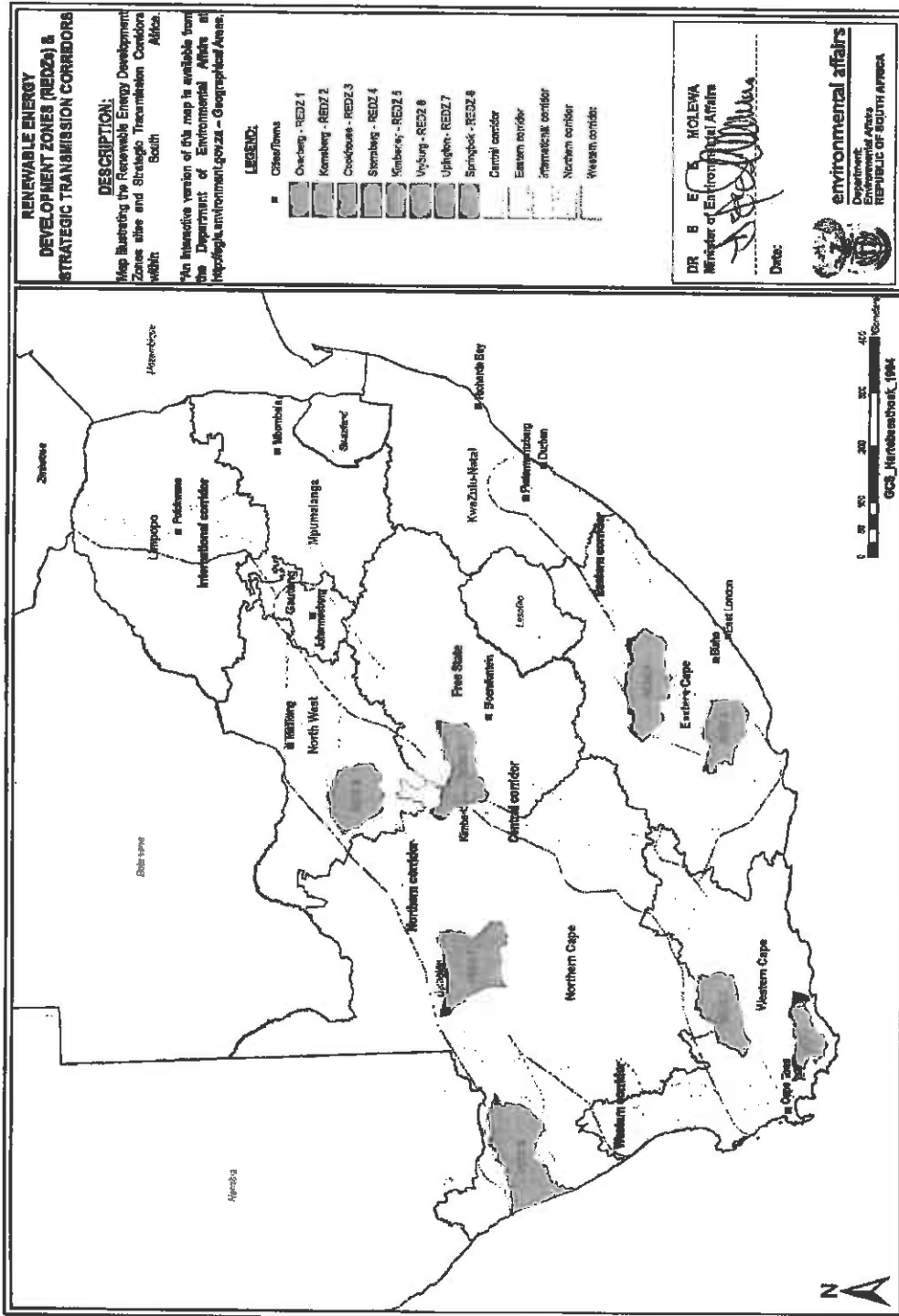
9. The Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa, 2015 can be accessed at:

<http://redzs.csir.co.za>; and

<https://egis.environment.gov.za/redz>;

and the Gazetted Notice can be accessed at:

https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices

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3. Applications for environmental authorisation for large scale wind or solar photovoltaic energy facilities, when such facilities trigger activity 1 of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 2 of 2014 and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, and where the entire proposed facility is to occur in such Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZs), must follow the basic assessment procedure contemplated in Regulation 19 and 20 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, in order to obtain environmental authorisation, as required in terms of the Act.
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