**Timeline of Mantashe’s stalling tactics to renewable energy generation**

**01 September 2022**

**Mantashe’s Eskom 2.0 fantasy will leave South Africa with an expensive fiscal hangover**

* Reports that the Minister of Energy, Gwede Mantashe, is forging ahead with plans to set up another power generation company to rival Eskom, through repurposing old Eskom coal plants into gas power stations and building new nuclear plants, is ill-advised and will likely worsen the country’s debt burden.

Mantashe is also punting the possibility of building a modular nuclear plant at Thyspunt in the Eastern Cape. Nuclear power plants take years to build and South Africa does not have the money or the luxury of waiting that long for new generation capacity.

**28 June 2022**

**Loadshedding: Mantashe Must Go**

* Mantashe’s continued belief in the Grand Inga hydroelectric power scheme and a nuclear new build as potential saviours point to the fact that Minister Mantashe is completely out of touch with both the scale of the immediate crisis, its impact on our people and our economy, and the timeframe within which solutions can be implemented.

**10 May 2022**

**Mining Indaba: Minister Gwede’s remarks demonstrate a lack of understanding of South Africa’s energy needs**

* At the Mining Indaba yesterday, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Gwede Mantashe revealed once again how out of touch he is with South Africa’s energy crisis. Pinning his hopes on hydroelectric power from the Grand Inga project in the Democratic Republic of Congo and a new nuclear build, Mantashe is ignoring the elephant in the room: the 4000MW to 6000MW shortfall in electricity generation we face right now.

Despite being warned more than 3 years ago that the Grand Inga scheme was extremely unlikely to generate electricity in the short to medium term, Mantashe and the Department of Energy insisted on including Grand Inga and the potential for new nuclear generation in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in 2019.

**08 May 2022**

**Mantashe goes nuclear**

* Minister Gwede Mantashe is reported to have said that “If you resist nuclear and you [are] a board member, I fire you, simple. You can’t be a board member of something you’re not advocating for.” He made this outrageous statement at the ANC’s Eastern Cape elective conference on Saturday, in obvious reference to his recent dismissal of National Nuclear Regulator (NNR) board member, Peter Bekker.

**20 Apr 2022**

**DA calls for moratorium on onerous regulations for independent power generation to address electricity crisis**

* As part of the ongoing DA campaign to have the ongoing electricity crisis declared a State of Disaster, the DA is calling on the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, to consider placing a moratorium on the onerous regulations that are creating insurmountable red tape for independent power generation in the country.

In a press briefing, Eskom CEO, Andre de Ruyter revealed that:

* There is potential to add 200MW of new capacity from existing IPPs but they were being constrained by contractual obligations which prevent them from feeding this into the grid regularly. It is scandalous that the IPP office has not amended these contracts to allow for uncapped supply to the grid, considering the negative impact that loadshedding is having on the economy.
* Existing IPPs were also potentially able to add an additional 200MW to their existing generation capacity if they were allowed to expand their plant capacity. However regulatory decisions were standing in the way.
* The Eskom Board approved a plan on the 3rd of August last year to enable private generators to make bids and supply power to the grid. However, Treasury, Mantashe’s DMRE and NERSA are yet to approve the plan.
* There were onerous registration requirements for embedded or own generation players who produce electricity less than 100MW. These requirements are being kept in place by NERSA.
* Stringent zoning and slow environmental impact assessment processes were impeding the progress of onboarding IPPs interested in leasing Eskom land in Mpumalanga.

**01 Apr 2022**

**Mantashe’s RMPIPP has failed and should be terminated**

* Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe’s Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RMPIPP), delayed for the third time, has failed and should be terminated.

In a disappointing, yet expected announcement yesterday, Mantashe revealed that the signing of power purchase agreements by preferred bidders for the 2 000MW RMPIPP has once again been postponed due to “outstanding matters and conditions with Eskom”. This is the third postponement since the last deadline extension in January 2022.

**07 February 2022**

**DA rejects Mantashe’s ambition to expand nuclear and coal generation**

* While the DA fully supports the call for the frequent revision and update of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), we will not support any expansion of South Africa’s nuclear and coal ambitions.

Minister Gwede Mantashe’s desire to update the IRP to increase the country’s focus on gas generation and speeding up the nuclear build programme, highlights how out of touch he truly is. Mantashe’s infatuation with nuclear energy in particular, at a time when our economy can least afford it, continues to be a thorn in the side of our economy and the electricity generation industry.

**19 Nov 2021**

**5 times Mantashe’s ‘toing and froing’ has worsened SA’s energy crisis**

* Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources (DMRE), Gwede Mantashe, has become an expert at apportioning blame for South Africa’s energy crisis while conveniently failing to take responsibility over his actions, which have significantly escalated the crisis.

Since his appointment to the Energy and Mineral Resources portfolio, Mantashe has been an impediment in the attainment of an energy secure future. The following are 5 instances where his ‘toing and froing’ has worsened South Africa’s electricity crisis:

* The Small Projects Programme (SPP) which was established in 2013 to help local independent power producers run power projects up to 5MW in size, has stalled. Five years after incurring costs to keep the 20 projects, which range across wind, solar and biomass technologies, on standby for government go-ahead, no power purchase agreements have been signed and no projects have proceeded into construction.
* DMRE is currently in court facing charges of corruption and procedurally unfair procurement processes which resulted in the scandal ridden R200 billion Karpowership project. Together with the failure to reach financial close, this has resulted in the delayed implementation of the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Programme.
* A study by the auditing firm Ernst and Young, indicated that there is a backlog of 100 renewable projects trying to secure government permission. These could plug the loadshedding gap, create 100 000 jobs and reduce energy costs. Manatashe’s Department has instead stifled the projects through red tape, delays and bureaucracy.
* In 2014, banks pulled out of funding the Thabametsi and Khanyisa coal fired power projects in response to growing opposition against financing fossil fuel energy projects. Surprisingly, DMRE and the IPP office appear to be pushing ahead with the procurement of 1500MW of new coal fired power, starting in the first quarter of 2022, despite evidence that this would struggle to be financed.
* Mantashe has been issuing contradictory statements, often in direct contradiction to President Ramaphosa, on South Africa’s transition to clean energy sources. This creates uncertainty and delays much needed investment in the energy sector, especially after South Africa obtained a multi-billion rand renewable energy investment pledge from the recently concluded COP26 Climate Summit in Glasglow.

**09 Nov 2021**

**Mantashe contradicts Ramaphosa (again!) on moving away from fossil fuels**

* President Cyril Ramaphosa should clarify comments by Mineral Resource Minister Gwede Mantashe that African nations “unite” against the global move away from fossil fuels.

Minister Mantashe’s comments at the African Energy Week today are therefore not only regressive as it relates to South Africa moving towards cleaner and more diverse energy sources, but also go directly against President Ramaphosa’s statements last week that this investment would speed up the country’s shift away from coal.

**29 Oct 2021**

**Bid Window 5: DA vindicated on renewable energy costs**

* The DA’s long held position that renewable energy sources should be a key source of supply for South Africa’s future energy needs was vindicated in the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPP) 5 announcement made yesterday by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Gwede Mantashe.

Not only are the new renewable energy sources announced yesterday significantly cheaper per kWh than what Eskom produces, they can be brought online much quicker than fossil based power plants. With the lowest prices for solar at 37,5c per kWh and 34,4c per kWh for wind, Bid Window 5 offers the cheapest energy costs of all bid windows to date.

The announcement clears policy inconsistences that have come to characterise Mantashe’s vowed disregard for green investment.

**30 Aug 2021**

**Mantashe’s new 2500MW nuclear energy build programme is an exercise in futility**

* The decision by the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, to invite expressions of interest for the proposed 2500MW nuclear energy build programme at the end of the 2021/2022 financial year is a reflection of misplaced priorities and policy discord on South Africa’s energy crisis.

**09 August 2021**

**Delays to gazette 100MW generation threshold proof that Mantashe has no desire to fix energy crisis**

* Reports that the gazetting of amendments to Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act raising the threshold for licencing of own generation to 100MW will be delayed until at earliest mid-September are indicative of the lack of any real desire to address this issue. Gwede Mantashe, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, has previously admitted that he had to have his arm twisted to agree to the raising of the threshold.

**10 June 2021**

**DA welcomes planned amendments to Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act**

* The DA welcomes the announcement by President Cyril Ramphosa that the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy has undertaken to amend Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulation Act “to increase NERSA’s licensing threshold for embedded generation projects from 1MW to 100MW.”

The DA has long called for Minister Gwede Mantashe and his department to change energy regulations to allow for independent power producers to ease the pressure on the national grid. We are pleased that sense has finally prevailed as the President has desided to go big on energy.

**04 Jun 2021**

**Minister Mantashe must go**

* The decision by the Pretoria High Court to declare that the environmental approval for the 600MW Khanyisa coal-fired power station in Mpumalanga has expired must surely drive the final nail into the coffin of an electricity generation future based on coal. This comes shortly after the 630MW Thabametsi coal-fired plant in Limpopo failed to reach financial closure.

**07 January 2021**

**Minister Mantashe must reopen REIPPP to save SA from load shedding**

* Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, has deviated from the cabinet approved Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), South Africa’s roadmap for electricity generation.

Minister Mantashe has decided to include the procurement of 2 500 MW of nuclear power by 2024 in his Ministerial Performance Agreement. This despite the IRP containing no such provision and his neglect to implement the procurement of renewable energy through IPPs – a key area of the IRP that both he and President Cyril Ramaphosa has repeatedly and unambiguously committed to.

**11 Nov 2020**

**DA demands transparency on Mantashe’s nuclear plans**

* The Democratic Alliance (DA) is appalled by reports that the Mineral Resources and Energy Minister, Gwede Mantashe, is seeking to fast-track the procurement of nuclear energy by seeking a section 34 approval from NERSA. Such an approval will enable the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy to commence a tender process for the construction of a nuclear power plant or plants.

**24 Aug 2020**

**Department of Mineral Resources must not scare investors for renewable energy bid away**

* The Democratic Alliance (DA) calls on the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, to reconsider the stringent conditions attached to his Department’s statement calling for requests for proposal (RFP) for emergency energy procurement from interested parties.

The conditions include:

* Ownership and localisation must reflect Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) requirements; and
* stringent local content thresholds and targets for local construction and manufacturing.

**06 Mar 2020**

**Minister Mantashe is delaying IPPs**

* Minister Gwede Mantashe is delaying mines and municipalities the power to self-generate and procure electricity from independent power producers (IPPs) despite the very evident electricity crisis the country faces.

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) has reportedly indicated that the notice for public participation on section 34 ministerial determinations will only commence in a month’s time. And that the “concurrence” processes for these determinations will take between 3 and 6 months.

**25 Feb 2020**

**Mantashe dithers again!**

* Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, has accused the DA-run Western Cape and City of Cape Town of behaving like “spoilers” for taking him and his department to court over the city’s bid to purchase electricity directly from independent power producers.

In an interview with energy expert Chris Yelland, Mantashe is quoted as saying: “The City of Cape Town must talk to us instead of going to court.”

**20 Feb 2020**

**Mantashe’s ‘new generation entity’ is just more madness**

* At his post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) press briefing, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, doubled down on his left-field idea of a new electricity generation entity “outside of Eskom”. Minister Mantashe first proposed this madcap idea at the Mining Indaba

**14 Feb 2020**

**Mantashe is spanner in the works of President’s energy promises**

* While the Democratic Alliance (DA) welcomes President Cyril Ramaphosa’s announcements in his State of the Nation (SONA) address regarding the energy sector, it is worrying that Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe does not seem to be on board.

Shortly after Ramaphosa announced during SONA that Independent Power Producers will be able to sell electricity to financially viable municipalities, Mantashe contradicted him in media interviews afterward by saying he is unwilling to commit to opening Bid Window 5.

**04 Feb 2020**

**Government’s proposed new electricity generation SOE a mad idea**

* The Democratic Alliance (DA) unequivocally rejects statements attributed to the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, that the ANC Government is looking to set up an alternative electricity generation entity. This is utter madness. Instead of making the South African electricity supply sector more competitive, Government is seeking to extend its monopoly over electricity generation.

**20 Sep 2019**

**Government fails again to release Integrated Resource Plan, creating yet more uncertainty**

* Despite assurances from Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, that the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) would be released this month, it now appears that it is extremely unlikely. Over the past 24 hours, reports have emerged that NEDLAC, and more specifically, organized labour, have rejected the plan in its entirety because it does not adequately provide for a nuclear build programme.