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24 January 2023

Dear Stakeholder and/or Interested & Affected Party (I&AP),

PART I ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) AMENDMENT APPLICATION TO EXTEND THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE EA FOR THE 100 MW LOERIESFONTEIN 3 PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (SEF), 33/132KV IPP PORTION OF THE SHARED ON-SITE SUBSTATION (INCLUDING THE TRANSFORMER) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR LOERIESFONTEIN, HANTAM LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – DFFE REFERENCE NUMBER: 12/12/20/2321/2/1

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT MOTIVATION REPORT FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Loeriesfontein 3 (Pty) Ltd received the original Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the 100MW Loeriesfontein 3 Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility (SEF) and Grid Connection infrastructure on 29 October 2012 (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2). Further to this, the original EA was amended on 10 July 2014 (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2/A1), 27 October 2015 (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2/AM2), 04 October 2017 (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2/AM3) and 24 September 2019 (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2/AM4). In addition, following the 2019 amendment, the EA was subsequently split into two separate EAs (1 for the 100MW PV SEF and 1 for the grid connection infrastructure), both dated 21 May 2021, as follows:

- 1) EA for the 100MW Loeriesfontein 3 PV SEF, 33/132kV Independent Power Producer (IPP) portion of the shared on-site substation (including Transformer) and associated infrastructure (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2/1) – the subject of this notification letter; and**
- 2) EA for the 132kV Grid Alignment and 132kV Eskom Portion of the shared on-site substation to service the 100MW Loeriesfontein 3 PV SEF (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2/2).

The validity of the split EA for the 100MW Loeriesfontein 3 PV SEF and associated infrastructure lapsed on 29 October 2022, however, a Part I EA Amendment Application to extend the validity period of the EA by 5 years (i.e., EA lapses on 29 October 2027) was submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on 26 October 2022. It is important to note that according to Regulation 28(1B) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (as amended), "*an environmental authorisation which is the subject of an amendment application contemplated in this Chapter remains valid pending the finalisation of such amendment application.*" The Part I EA Amendment Application was acknowledged by the DFFE on 07 November 2022 and additional information was requested to be submitted to the DFFE for consideration in terms of Regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Following this, assessments have been undertaken to motivate why the Department should extend the validity period of the SEF EA for a further 5 years.



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As part of the Part I EA Amendment Application and the additional information requested by the DFFE, separate specialist comparative assessments and motivation reports are required for:

- **100 MW Loeriesfontein 3 PV SEF, 33/132kV IPP Portion of the Shared On-site Substation (including the Transformer) and associated infrastructure, near Loeriesfontein, Hantam Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province – DFFE Reference Number: 12/12/20/2321/2/1.**
- 132kV Grid Alignment (i.e., Overhead Power Line) and 132kV Eskom Portion of the Shared On-site Substation for the 100 MW Loeriesfontein 3 PV SEF near Loeriesfontein, Hantam Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province – DFFE Reference Number: 12/12/20/2321/2/2.

The proposed site for the 100 MW Loeriesfontein 3 PV SEF is located on the farm Aan De Karree Doorn Pan No. 213 (Portion 1 and Portion 2), approximately 60km north of the town of Loeriesfontein within the Hantam Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

In terms of Condition 5 of the SEF EA dated 21 May 2012 (DFFE Ref.: 12/12/20/2321/2/1) and Chapter 5 of the EIA Regulations of December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017 and 13 July 2018), it is possible for the holder of an EA to apply for an amendment of the EA with the Competent Authority for a change or deviation from the project description to be approved.

Following receipt of the original EA which was issued on 29 October 2012 (DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2), and the subsequent split EAs issued on 21 May 2021, both above-mentioned split EAs (i.e. EA for 100MW SEF, including IPP portion of shared on-site substation - DFFE Ref: 12/12/20/2321/2/1 & EA for 132kV Grid alignment and Eskom portion of on-site shared substation - DFFE Ref.: 12/12/20/2321/2/2) lapsed on 29 October 2022 and thus need to be extended for a period of five (5) years (i.e., EA lapses on 29 October 2027). No other amendments are being applied for and the layout of the authorised infrastructure remains unchanged.

In order to verify the potential for a change in the impacts on biodiversity, heritage, palaeontology, the aquatic environment, soil & agricultural potential, avifauna and bats, the required specialist input into the amendment motivation report have been included.

Nala Environmental was appointed as the independent environmental consultant to undertake the amendment application and to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts, as well as to compile the Motivation report and undertake the required public participation process, in terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), for the amendment application, as per the additional information request from the DFFE.



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Public Participation

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) / stakeholder, you are hereby notified that the Motivation Report for the amendment of the EA for the 100MW Loeriesfontein 3 PV SEF, 33/132kV IPP Portion of the Shared On-site Substation (including the Transformer) and associated infrastructure, near Loeriesfontein in the Hantam Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province (DFFE Reference Number: 12/12/20/2321/2/1), is available for your review and comment for a period of 30-days, from **Tuesday 24 January 2023 until Thursday 23 February 2023**. The report is available for download from the Nala Environmental website: <https://nalaenvironmental.co.za/projects/part-1-amendment-application-for-the-extension-of-the-validity-period-of-the-ea-for-the-100mw-loeriesfontein-3-pv-solar-energy-facility-northern-cape-province/>

A digital copy of the Motivation Report and associated appendices will also be made available in electronic tablet format for the full duration of the review and comment period at the Loeriesfontein Public Library (3 Hoofstraat, Loeriesfontein, 8185) for review and comment.

Please kindly submit your written comments on the Motivation report to us **by latest Thursday 23 February 2023 (by close of business day)** via the following methods:

- Telephone: 084 2777 074
- Fax: 086 471 4190
- Post: Private Bag X26, Suite 548, Sunninghill, 2157
- E-mail: publicparticipation@nalaenvironmental.co.za

All comments received during the 30-day review and comment period will be recorded and included in the Final Motivation Report for submission to the DFFE, in line with Regulation 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GN R326).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the project.

Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout this process.



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Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Arlene Singh', written in a cursive style.

Arlene Singh

Environmental Consultant

E-mail: publicparticipation@nalaenvironmental.co.za