



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/923

**Enquiries:** Ms Thabile Sangweni

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9409 **E-mail:** TSangweni@environment.gov.za

Mr Andrew Kesiamang  
Metsimatala CSP Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 1058  
**KIMBERLEY**  
8300

Telephone Number: (053) 861 1514  
Email Address: andrew@afridevo.co.za

### **PER E-MAIL / MAIL**

Dear Mr Kesiamang

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 983/984/985 FOR THE 150 MW METSIMATALA CSP TROUGH FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR POSTMASBURG WITHIN THE TSANTSABANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The environmental authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the Department's decision in respect of the amendment made as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R.993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

### **Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:**

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za);

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko,  
Arcadia,  
Pretoria,  
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria,  
0001;

Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, the lodging of an appeal 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 is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at [https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za).

Yours faithfully



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

Date: 02/02/2017

cc:	Mr R Lamprecht	Enviroworks	Email: rikus@enviroworks.co.za
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## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014

The 150 MW Metsimatala CSP Trough Facility and its associated infrastructure near Postmasburg  
within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province

ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/923</i>
<b>Last amended:</b>	<i>First issue</i>
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	<i>Metsimatala CSP Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd</i>
<b>Location of activity:</b>	<i>Remaining Extent of the Farm Groenwater No. 453; Remaining Extent of Portion 4, Farm Groenwater No. 453; Remaining Extent of Portion 5, Farm Groenwater No. 453; Tsantsabane Local Municipality; ZF Mgcawu District Municipality; Northern Cape Province</i>

This authorisation 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 the activity.

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this environmental authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

### **METSIMATALA CSP SOLAR ENERGY (PTY) LTD**

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Andrew Kesiamang

PO Box 1058

**KIMBERLEY**

8300

Telephone Number: (053) 861 1514

Cell phone Number: (083) 269 5948

Email Address: andrew@afridevo.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing Notice 2 and Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 983, 984 and 985):

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 11:</u>  <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity</i>                      (i) <i>outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts."</i></p>	<p>Transmission/distribution components associated with electricity transmission from the power block into the substation will be constructed.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 28:</u>  <i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i>                      (ii) <i>Will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	<p>Construction and operation of a CSP (parabolic trough) facility with associated infrastructure (power block and internal substation) with a 500ha footprint and which will have a power generating capacity of 150 MW.</p> <p>A temporary 38.8ha laydown area will be situated to the south of the footprint next to the R385 for the duration of the construction phase.</p> <p>Two 3ha stormwater basins will be situated to the north and south of the footprint, respectively.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Item 1:</u>  <i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more."</i></p>	<p>Construction and operation of a CSP (parabolic trough) facility with associated infrastructure (power block and internal substation) with a 500ha footprint and which will have a power generating capacity of 150 MW.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984 Item 15:</u>  <i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	<p>Construction and operation of a CSP (parabolic trough) facility with associated infrastructure (power block and internal substation) on a natural area with</p>

	<p>indigenous vegetation covering a footprint area of 500ha. The area will be cleared during construction.</p> <p>A temporary 38.8ha laydown area will be situated to the south of the footprint next to the R385 for the duration of the construction phase.</p> <p>Two 3ha stormwater basins will be situated to the north and south of the footprint, respectively.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 4:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres</i></p> <p>(a) <u>In Northern Cape Province:</u></p> <p>(ii) <i>Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p>(ee) <i>Critical Biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>All site roads will require a width of ~ 5 – 6m and drainage trenches will be installed along the sides of the internal road network. In addition, silt traps will be installed at the outfall of the drainage trenches to existing watercourses. A small portion of the proposed development footprint is classified as a CBA.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 12:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan</i></p> <p>(d) <u>In Northern Cape Province:</u></p> <p>(ii) <i>Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>Construction and operation of a CSP facility with associated infrastructure on an area with indigenous vegetation covering a footprint area of 500ha. A small portion of the proposed development footprint is classified as a CBA.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 18:</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i></p> <p>(a) <u>In Northern Cape Province:</u></p> <p>ii. <i>Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p>(ee) <i>Critical Biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>All site roads will require a width of ~ 5 – 6m and drainage trenches will be installed along the sides of the internal road network. In addition, silt traps will be installed at the outfall of the drainage trenches to existing watercourses. A small portion of the proposed development footprint is classified as a CBA.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated September 2016 at:

**21 SG Codes:**

C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	3	0	0	0	0	4
C	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	3	0	0	0	0	5

CSP Facility	Latitude	Longitude
North-western corner	28°16'23.74776"S	23°17'11.00848"E
North-eastern corner	28°16'23.59751"S	23°18'20.35642"E
South-eastern corner	28°17'49.02900"S	23°18'20.60042"E
South-western corner	28°17'49.17939"S	23°17'11.23711"E

- for the 150 MW Metsimatala CSP Trough Facility and its associated infrastructure near Postmasburg within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality, which falls under the jurisdiction of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The Metsimatala CSP trough facility will comprise the following:

- Solar field;
- HTF system;
- Tracking system;
- Power block and auxiliary systems;
- Thermal energy storage system;
- Balance of plant (including water storage, raw water pre-treatment and treatment systems, waste water treatment system, compressed air system, plant control system and DCS, fire protection system, nitrogen system, utility systems and facilities needed for plant proper maintenance and storage of spare parts and consumables);
- Administrative and control building;
- Roads;
- Fencing;
- Temporary laydown areas;
- Water supply;
- Warehouse;

- Access control building;
- Fire protection facility;
- Change houses;
- Sewage treatment facilities (i.e. package plant system, specifically the Biozone STP 5 sewage treatment plant);
- Solid waste and hazardous waste disposal;
- Non-hazardous water storage and treatment facility; and,
- Two stormwater basins.

**Technical details of the proposed facility:**

Component	Description / Dimensions
Location of the site	Approximately 22 km north east of Postmasburg
Farm names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remaining Extent, Farm Groenwater No. 453;</li> <li>- Remaining Extent of Portion 4, Farm Groenwater No. 453; and,</li> <li>- Remaining Extent of Portion 5, Farm Groenwater No. 453.</li> </ul>
Site access	Site access will be via the R385 Provincial Road
Export capacity	Up to 150 MW
Proposed technology	CSP Trough
Width and length of internal roads	Width: Approximately 6m Length: Approximately 30km

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

**Scope of authorisation**

1. The 150 MW Metsimatala CSP Trough Facility and its associated infrastructure as described above is hereby approved.
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.
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

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limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.

4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
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.
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.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) 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.
8. Construction must be 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.

#### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

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.
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.

12. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
  - 12.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
  - 12.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
  - 12.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014.

### **Commencement of the activity**

13. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 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.

### **Management of the activity**

14. A copy of the final development layout map must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
  - 14.1 Internal roads indicating width;
  - 14.2 Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables;
  - 14.3 All sensitive features e.g. Critical Biodiversity Areas, Ecological Support Areas, heritage sites, wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure;
  - 14.4 Substation(s) inverters and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
  - 14.5 Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
  - 14.6 All existing infrastructure on the site, such as roads;
  - 14.7 Soil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
  - 14.8 Buildings, including accommodation; and,
  - 14.9 All "no-go" and buffer areas.

15. Furthermore, a shapefile of the approved development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department within two months from the date of this decision. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp; .shx; .dbf; .prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avl and/or the .lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title. The shape file must be submitted to:

**Postal Address:**

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Private Bag X447  
Pretoria  
0001

**Physical address:**

Department of Environmental Affairs  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko  
Arcadia  
Pretoria

For Attention: Mr Muhammad Essop  
Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Strategic Infrastructure Developments  
Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406  
Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za

16. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the EIAR is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written

approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

17. The EMPr amendment must include the following:
  - 17.1. The requirements and conditions of this authorisation.
  - 17.2. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAr.
  - 17.3. All mitigation measures as listed in the specialist reports must be included in the EMPr and implemented.
  - 17.4. The final site layout map.
  - 17.5. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
  - 17.6. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site in consultation with the ECO and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
  - 17.7. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
  - 17.8. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
  - 17.9. The post construction avifaunal monitoring plan that must adhere to Birdlife's most recent avifaunal guideline.
  - 17.10. A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.

- 17.11. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- 17.12. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- 17.13. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operational phases.
- 17.14. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.
- 17.15. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- 17.16. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. This map must reflect the proposed location of the turbine as stated in the EIAr and this authorisation.
18. The final amended EMPr (once approved) 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 when approved.
19. Changes to the EMPr must be submitted to this Department for approval before such changes could be effected.
20. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAr be discovered.

#### **Frequency and process of updating the EMPr**

21. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 28 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.
22. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
23. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. 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.

24. 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 GN R.982. 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.
25. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The holder must notify the Department of its intention to amend the EMPr at least 60 days prior to submitting such amendments to the EMPr to the Department for approval. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 982.

### **Monitoring**

26. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent 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.
  - 26.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
  - 26.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
  - 26.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
  - 26.4. 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.

### **Recording and reporting to the Department**

27. 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.
28. 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.

29. 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 GN R. 982.
30. 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.
31. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 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 environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
32. 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.

#### **Notification to authorities**

33. 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.

#### **Operation of the activity**

34. 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.

#### **Site closure and decommissioning**

35. 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.

### Specific conditions

36. A 250m buffer must be maintained around the Southern Kalahari Salt Pans during the construction and operational phases.
37. A 30m buffer must be maintained around the identified cemetery and fenced off with an access gate.
38. Should any heritage resources of archaeological or paleontological significance be discovered during construction activities, construction must cease and a Phase 2 rescue operation must be undertaken by a qualified specialist. The findings must be submitted to SAHRA and should they have implications to the layout or mitigation measures, these must be submitted to this Department with SAHRA's recommendations for review and consideration.
39. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint.
40. Areas outside of the development footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
41. The holder of this authorisation must train safety representatives, managers and workers on workplace safety. The construction process must be compliant with all safety and health measures as prescribed by the relevant act.
42. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs.
43. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.
44. Anti-erosion measures such as silt fences must be installed in disturbed areas.
45. Monitoring for erosion must take place to ensure that no erosion problems are occurring at the site as a result of the roads and other infrastructure. All erosion problems observed must be rectified as soon as possible as outlined in the erosion management plan within the EMPr.
46. Vehicle speeds must be kept low (<30 km/h) on unpaved roads.
47. Chemical binders such as Dustex or Dust-A-Side must be considered for unpaved roads.
48. Dust fall must be monitored by dust collection buckets located downwind of the construction area.
49. Cleared alien vegetation must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area. Once clearing is completed, they must be moved to a licenced waste disposal facility.
50. Signs must be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information.
51. Roads must be designed so that changes to surface water runoff are avoided and erosion is not initiated.



52. Should abnormal loads have to be transported by road to the site, a permit must be obtained from the relevant Provincial and National Transport Authority.
  53. A formal grievance or complaints mechanism must be implemented.
  54. Leakage of fuel must be avoided at all times and if spillage occurs, it must be remedied immediately. Spill kits must be made available on-site for the clean-up of spills.
  55. No dumping or temporary storage of any materials may take place outside designated and demarcated laydown areas, and these must all be located within areas of low environmental sensitivity.
  56. Hazardous substances must be stored in a bunded and designated area to avoid accidental leakage into the environment.
  57. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation. Where waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).
  58. 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.
  59. Foundations and trenches must be backfilled with originally excavated materials as much as possible. Excess excavation materials must be disposed of only in approved areas or, if suitable, stockpiled for use in reclamation activities.
  60. Borrow materials must be obtained only from authorized and permitted sites. Permits must be kept on site by the ECO.
  61. The holder of this authorisation must reduce visual impacts during construction by minimising areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques and restoring exposed soil as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.
  62. Any vegetation clearing that needs to take place as part of maintenance activities (during the operational phase of the approved development), must be done in accordance to the approved EMPr.
  63. Kerbs and storm water channels must be designed in such a way that they can allow small animals and reptiles to move freely.
  64. The holder of the authorisation must comply with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) Articles 7.1 and (3) b of Regulation 9238.
  65. Top soil and subsoil must be stockpiled separately and replaced according to the correct profile i.e. topsoil replaced last. Stockpiles must not be situated such that they obstruct natural water pathways and drainage channels.
  66. Top soil stockpiles must not exceed 2m in height, stockpiles older than 6 months must be enriched before they can be used to ensure the effectiveness of the topsoil.
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67. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities must be removed to a safe location by a qualified person.
68. The recommendations of the EAP in the final EIAr dated September 2016 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.

### **General**

69. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 69.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 69.2. to anyone on request; and
  - 69.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
70. 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.

Date of environmental authorisation: 02/02/2017



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director, Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form and amended application form received on 04 April 2016 and 30 September 2016, respectively.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated September 2016.
- c) The comments received from Birdlife SA, SAAO, the Department of Environmental Affairs: Biodiversity and Conservation, SKA SA, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the South African Civil Aviation Authority, the Department of Water and Sanitation, Eskom, Sedibeng Water, SAHRA and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAr dated September 2016.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated September 2016 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Ecological and Wetland Assessment	Environiche Consultants	March 2016
Avifaunal Impact Assessment	Arcus	June 2016
Soils and Land Capability Assessment	Digital Soils Africa	February 2016
Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	Archaeomaps	March 2016
Paleontological Impact Assessment	Paleo Field Services	Undated
Visual Impact Assessment	MetroGIS (Pty) Ltd	September 2016
Social Impact Assessment	Global Green	February 2016
EMPr	Enviroworks	September 2016

## **2. Key factors considered in making the decision**

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The EIAr dated September 2016 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr dated September 2016.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated September 2016 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) Comments from Interested and Affected Parties.
- f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for public involvement.

## **3. Findings**

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAr dated September 2016 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) The information contained in the EIAr dated September 2016 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAr and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.