



Our Ref: 2016/JM

9th September 2020

To whom this may concern,

Confirmation Letter of no change in potential impacts for the application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation for the Sirius Solar PV Project Two Part 2 Amendment, Northern Cape Province (DEA Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/2/2/481)

Sirius Solar PV Project Two RF (Pty) Ltd is proposing the construction and operation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) of up to 4.5GWh, as well as an increase of the contracted capacity of the authorised Sirius Solar PV Project Two by 75MW within the authorised footprint, on a site located 21km south-west of Upington in the Northern Cape Province. The project is located within the Upington Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ), within the Kai !Garib Local Municipality and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed increase in the contracted capacity of the solar PV facility by 75MW is due to improvements in technology of solar PV panels since the original authorization of the project, as well as to ensure an adequate supply of electricity. The general purpose and utilisation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is to save and store excess electrical output as it is generated, allowing for a timed release when the capacity is required. BESS systems therefore provide flexibility in the efficient operation of the electric grid through decoupling of the energy supply and demand.

The development area for the battery energy storage area is ~ 18ha and is proposed within the area assessed and approved for the solar PV facility. The extent of the development footprint of the battery energy storage will be up to 6.5ha and will be located within the development area. The development footprint as well as the development area identified for the construction and operation of the BESS is located adjacent the authorised on-site facility substation of the solar PV facility. The following infrastructure is associated with the BESS:

- » Lithium-ion, Lithium Iron Phosphate, Sodium Sulphur, or Vanadium Redox batteries in a container with a footprint of 6.5ha and a maximum height of up to 2.8m; and
- » Multi-core, 33kV underground cables to connect the battery energy storage to the authorised on-site facility substation of Sirius Solar PV Project Two.

It is the Developer's intention to bid the solar PV facility and the battery energy storage under the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer (IPP) Procurement Programme of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy. Ultimately, the development of the solar PV facility as well as the battery energy storage is intended to be part of the renewable energy projects portfolio for South Africa, as contemplated in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

In light of the above, Environmental Planning and Design was appointed to provide an opinion on whether the proposed amendments would change any impacts,

mitigation measures or recommendations as identified in the Visual Impact Assessment report dated November 2013.

As the proposed battery storage is located within the original development footprint assessed within the Visual Impact Assessment and because the proposed battery storage elements are lower than the adjacent PV array (4m) and the on-site substation (up to 10m), this proposed amendment will not change the findings and recommendations included in the Visual Impact Assessment report (November 2013).

As the proposed increase of the contracted capacity of the facility is due to improvements in PV technology since the original authorization, the proposed amendment will not result in an increase in the area or height of PV panels, this proposed amendment will also not change the findings included in the Visual Impact Assessment report.

Because neither the proposed increased power output nor the proposed BESS will result in additional visual implications, the proposed amendments are acceptable from a landscape and visual impact perspective.

We trust this letter will provide you with the information required to make a decision on the amendment application. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details below.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Marshall', with a small dot at the end.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DESIGN

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