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The Director(s)
Bloemsmond Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd
101 Block A
West Quay Building
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17 August 2020

Dear Sir(s)

BLOEMSMOND SOLAR 3 (PTY) LTD: APPLICATION TO AMEND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Bloemsmond Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd, located on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Bloemsmond 455 in the ZF Mgcawu District of the Northern Cape Province had an EIA conducted during 2019 for authorisation to construct a 100 Megawatt PV facility and associated infrastructure. An Environmental Authorisation was received for the project on 08 November 2019 under Reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/2042. I was the specialist who conducted the agricultural impact assessment for that EIA.

Bloemsmond Solar 3 (Pty) Ltd now wishes to apply for an amendment to the EA to include a 500 Megawatt Hour (MWh) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the authorised footprint, adjacent to the on-site sub-station. Full particulars on the intended BESS appears in their application.

As the Agricultural Specialist during the original EIA process, I was requested to study the particulars of the BESS and provide an opinion on whether this inclusion will result in any additional or increased agricultural impacts within the proposed site and surrounding area.

I can, without doubt, confirm that the BESS

- will not change or increase the nature or severity of any of the agricultural impacts originally identified and reported in 2019;
- Will have no additional impacts to those identified previously in my study; and
- Will not require any additional management outcomes or mitigation measures for the agricultural environment that were not indicated during the previous study.

This declaration is made after I have ensured that:

1. the BESS will indeed be placed within the authorised footprint and that no additional agricultural land will be involved or lost;
2. The construction of the BESS will have no additional influence on erosion or drainage patterns on site, since it will be located on higher local elevation with runoff taking place outwards into drainage lines or towards pans.
3. During construction, spillage of fuel or concrete is possible, as with the construction of all other components of the facility. Mitigation measures prescribed will be the same in this case.
4. It is likely that the batteries will require solid foundations like concrete pads or steel decks, which is not different from the foundations for the pylons of the connection line foundations for auxiliary buildings and the substation. Mitigation measures and management practices were included in the original study.

From an agricultural view point, there are no additional management or mitigation measures required for the Battery Energy Storage System and I recommend that the EA is amended to include the BESS.

Yours faithfully



C R Lubbe