



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1577

Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

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Solar Reserve South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Mr Krishman Moonsamy
Office 11C, 11th Floor
Sinosteel Plaza,
159 Rivonia Road
SANDTON
2196

Tel: (011) 582 6880

E-mail: Terence.govendor@solarreserve.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Moonsamy

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 982/983: THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV POWERLINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE EVACUATION OF POWER FROM THE KALKAAR CONCENTRATING SOLAR THERMAL POWER PROJECT ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 1 OF THE FARM KALKAAR 389 NEAR JACOBSDAL, FREE STATE AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

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 EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, and the provisions regarding the submission of appeals as 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. An appellant must submit an 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.

By post:

Private Bag X447,
Pretoria, 0001; or

By hand:

Environment House
473 Steve Biko Street,
Arcadia,
Pretoria, 0083

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection, should you intend to submit an appeal.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses.
Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356

Email: Appealsdirector@environment.gov.za

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

For guidance on appeals submitted to the Minister in terms of NEMA and the SEMAs, please find a copy of the guideline on the administration of appeals on the Department's website:
(https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations).

Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to all registered interested and affected parties.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Date: 03/05/2019

CC:	Mr S Taylor	Sivest SA (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011 798 0691	Email: shaunt@sivest.co.za
	Mr K Motlhale	Tokoloko Local Municipality	Tel: 053 541 0014	Email: municipalmanager@tokologo.gov.za
	Mr G Akharwary	Sol Plaatje Local Municipality	Tel: 053 830 6911	Email: info@solplaatje.org.za
	Mr T Wessels	DENC	Tel: 053 807 7300	Email: bbotes@ncpg.gov.za
	Mr K Tau	DETEA	Tel: 051 400 9542	Email: tauk@detea.fs.gov



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

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

The construction of a 132kV powerline and associated infrastructure for the evacuation of power from the Kalkaar Concentrating Solar Thermal Power (CSP) project on the remainder of portion 1 of the farm Kalkaar 389 near Jacobsdal, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces.

Lejweleputswa and Frances Baard District Municipalities

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/1577</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Solar Reserve South Africa (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>On the Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Kalkaar 389 near Jacobsdal in the Free State, Tokologo Local Municipality and Sol Plaatje Local Municipality; Free State and Northern Cape Provinces</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 –

SOLAR RESERVE SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Krishman Moonsamy

Office 11C, 11th Floor

Sinosteel Plaza

159 Rivonia Road

SANDTON

2196

Telephone Number: (011) 582 6880

Cell phone Number: 083 449 0433

Email Address: Terence.govender@solarreserve.com

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, Listing 983 and 985):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN 983, Activity 11 Item (i)</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts"</i></p>	<p>The proposed power line will be 132kV in capacity and will be located outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>GN 983, Activity 12 Item (xii); (a) and (c)</u></p> <p><i>"The development of:</i></p> <p><i>(xii) infrastructures or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32m of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse"</i></p>	<p>Due to the number and width of the watercourses (including drainage lines, wetlands and riparian zones), the power line structures and associated infrastructure will need to be placed within watercourses as well as within 32 meters of the edge of the watercourses.</p>
<p><u>GN 983, Activity 19 Item (i)</u></p> <p><i>"The development of infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5m³ into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5m³ from</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse</i></p>	<p>The proposed power line will need to be constructed through a number of watercourses which will involve the removal and infill of material that will be more than 5m³ from the respective affected watercourses.</p>
<p><u>GN 985 Activity 4 Item (ii) (gg) (iii) (bb)</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres</i></p> <p><i>In Free State:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Outside urban areas, in</i></p> <p><i>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or</i></p>	<p>Access roads will be in excess of 4 metres wide with a reserve less than 13,5 metres within the Benfontein Nature Reserve and within Regional Open Space identified in the Sol Plaatjie SDF.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; or</i></p> <p><i>(iii) In urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, or zoned for a conservation purpose”</i></p>	
<p><u>GN 985 Activity 12 Item (d) (iv)</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 with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p><i>(d) In Northern Cape:</i></p> <p><i>iv. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned as open space, conservation or had equivalent zoning.</i></p>	<p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation within areas designated as “Regional Open Space” identified in the Sol Plaatjie SDF for construction of the proposed powerline and associated infrastructure.</p>
<p><u>GN 985 Activity 14 Item (xii) (a) (c) (a) (ii) (hh) (iii) (aa) (bb)</u></p> <p><i>The development of –</i></p> <p><i>(xii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>Where such development occurs –</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p> <p><i>(a) In Free State and Northern Cape Provinces</i></p> <p><i>ii. Outside urban areas, in:</i></p> <p><i>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in</i></p>	<p>The proposed construction of the powerline and associated infrastructure footprint will exceed 10 square metres or more within 32 metres of the identified wetlands and watercourses within the Benfontein Nature Reserve and within Regional Open Space identified in the Sol Plaatjie SDF.</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; or</i></p> <p><i>(iii) In urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;</i></p> <p><i>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, or zoned for a conservation purpose;</i></p>	

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated September 2016 at the Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Kalkaar 389 near Jacobsdal:

Corridor 1 Jacobsdal link (green-preferred 19km in length)	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point	29°11'1.106"S	24°58'26.927"E
Middle point	29°9'33.123"S	24°52'52.899"E
End point	29°7'0.833"S	24°47'58.023"E
Corridor 2 Alternative 2 (turquoise-preferred 62km in length)	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point	29°11'1.106"S	24°58'26.927"E
Middle point	28°54'34.566"S	24°55'35.785"E
End point	28°43'25.010"S	24°52'52.058"E

- for the construction of a 132kV powerline and associated infrastructure for the evacuation of power from the Kalkaar concentrating solar thermal power project on the remainder of portion 1 of the farm Kalkaar 389 near Jacobsdal, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Tokologo Local Municipality and Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, hereafter referred to as "the corridors".

The power line project will comprise of the following:

- Construction of Tern power lines or equivalent of a 132kV power line from the proposed CSP Project to the proposed Jacobsdal, Kimberley and Boundary substations and all the necessary expansion and changes to Eskom infrastructure at the substations.
- The grid connections include the following:
 - Jacobsdal Link = approximately 19km in length;

- CSP Project via Kimberley DS to Boundary Substation Corridor 2 Alternative 2 = approximately 62km in length.
- Install 48 core optical ground wire (OPGW) on the power line.
- Build 2-3 bay substations next to the approved substations on the CSP Project Site. Proposed substations will be approximately 100m x 100m – one for Eskom and one for the Project site.
- Inclusive of all cable trenches.
- Install 10 x 25m lighting/lightning masts.
- Building of an access road to the substation.
- Building of a standard control room (5.5m x 12m) with top entry and cable racks. This will include a sewage system, air-conditioning and energy efficient lighting.
- Installation of a security fence with entrance gates.
- 1 x 132kV line bay and 1 x 132kV metering bay at each connection substation.
- Installation of a required Control Plant, AC/DC, Metering, SCADA and Telecoms.
- V drain extension of substation for drainage purposes.
- All extensions required (132kV yard, fencing etc.) of the connecting Eskom Assets i.e. Kimberley DS / Boundary / Jacobsdal Substation(s)
- Access roads, control rooms, security systems etc.).

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred corridor 1 (green) 19km in length Jacobsdal link and the preferred corridor 2 alternative 2 (turquoise) via Kimberly DS to Boundary substation for proposed construction of a 132kV powerline and associated infrastructure for the evacuation of power from the Kalkaar concentrating solar thermal power project on the remainder of portion 1 of the farm Kalkaar 389 near Jacobsdal, Free State and Northern Cape Provinces as described above is hereby approved as cited at the table reflected in page 5 above.

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 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 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. provide 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. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR is not approved and must be amended and submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the authorised activity. Once approved, the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to. The approved EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development. The EMPr must be corridor specific and amended to include:
 - 14.1. The requirements and conditions of this environmental authorisation;
 - 14.2. Findings of the detailed walkdown by the ecological, avifaunal, and heritage and palaeontological specialist.
 - 14.3. Recommendations and mitigation measures (specifically those relevant to the authorised corridors) recorded in the BAR and the specialist reports as included in the final BAR dated February 2017; and
 - 14.4. A final development layout plan (with micro-siting of the power line route and pylon structures) and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final development layout plan.
15. The final development layout plan to be included in the EMPr must indicate the following:
 - 15.1. The final delineation of the centreline of the power line within the approved corridors;

- 15.2. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
- 15.3. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
- 15.4. All sensitive features e.g. wetlands, pans and drainage channels that will be affected by the power lines; and
- 15.5. All "no-go" and buffer areas.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

16. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 24 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.
17. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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

21. 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.

- 21.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 21.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
- 21.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 21.4. 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.
22. The ECO must be appointed for the duration of the project and thereafter for a six month rehabilitation period.

Recording and reporting to the Department

23. 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 at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
 24. 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 at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
 25. 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.
 26. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report 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.
 27. 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.
 28. 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.
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Notification to authorities

29. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. No activities, which require a water use licence, will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
33. Should any archaeological or cultural heritage resources, including human remains / graves, as defined and protected under the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999, be identified during the construction phase, construction activities within the vicinity of the findings must immediately cease and be reported to the relevant heritage resources authority and should human remains be found on site, the South African Police Service must also be notified.
34. Trees with bird nests must not be disturbed, unless the developer obtained a valid Fauna Permit from the provincial Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC) in Kimberley under the Northern Cape Nature Conservation, Act 9 of 2009 (NCNCA).
35. Prior to the construction of the line, a walk through must be conducted to ascertain if any White-backed Vulture breeding pairs will be impacted by the construction activities. Findings of the walkthrough must be incorporated into the amended EMPr.
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36. No trees containing White-backed Vultures nests must be removed.
37. No towers must be placed directly within the riparian habitat of the Modder River.
38. The applicant must implement an alien vegetation control program incorporated in the EMPr within freshwater resource and ensure establishment of indigenous species within areas where alien vegetation was identified.
39. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants, found within a 10km radius of the corridors, may be utilised.
40. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste, which will not be recycled, must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

41. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 41.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 41.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 41.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
- 41.4. 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: 03/05/2012


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 information contained in the BAR dated February 2017;
- b) The comments received from Interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated February 2017;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated February 2017 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR; and
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998).

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 proposed construction of the power line will assist by providing the infrastructure for distribution of electricity to local communities and the country as a whole.
- c) At a national level the power line is a critical part of the CSP project and also has the potential to stimulate the national economy through an increase in production.
- d) The BAR dated February 2017 identified all relevant environmental legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated February 2017.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated February 2017 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- 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 BAR dated February 2017 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) According to the independent EAP, the information contained in the BAR dated February 2017 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR 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.