



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2013

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Ms Nicola Rump
SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 21842
PORT ELIZABETH
6000

Telephone Number: (041) 509 4800
Email Address: nrump@srk.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Rump

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) TERMINAL, GAS PIPELINES AND DISTRIBUTION HUB FOR THE TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION AND RETICULATION OF NATURAL GAS WITHIN THE COEGA SEZ AND PORT OF NGQURA WITHIN THE NELSON MANDELA BAY MUNICIPALITY IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) received by the Department on 09 October 2020, the comments on the draft SR dated 05 November 2020, the final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated November 2020 and received by the Department on 23 November 2020, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated September 2019 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The Final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAr:

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (ii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (iii) The EIAr must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.
- (iv) Listing Notice 1, Item 24 of the EIA Regulations 2014 (As amended) included in the application form is not applicable to this development and must be removed from the application form.

(b) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Eastern Cape Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism; the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Climate Change; the provincial Department of Agriculture; SANRAL, TNPA, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, and the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs' comments.
- (iv) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (v) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (vi) The EAP is requested to contact the Department to make the necessary arrangements to conduct a site inspection prior to the submission of the final EIAr.

(c) Alternatives

- (i) Please provide a description of each of the preferred alternative type and provide detailed motivation on why it is preferred.
- (ii) The applicant must determine the need for decommissioning of lines. This information must inform whether there is a need to update the application form and/or to amend the terms of reference for the specialist studies.

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIAr must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - a) Positions of the power island, steam turbine and generator, fuel storage tanks, water storage reservoir and tanks, water and gas supply pipelines;
 - b) Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
 - d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
 - f) All existing infrastructure on the site.

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- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. Marine Protected Areas, CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - b) Buffer areas; and,
 - c) All "no-go" areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

(e) Specialist assessments

- (i) Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of infrastructure positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
- (ii) The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- (iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons and where necessary, include further expert advice.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) As there are other similar Gas to Power plants proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to indicate the following:
 - a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

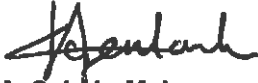
(g) General

- (i) The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- (ii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road, facility and associated infrastructure is to be located.
- (iii) A construction and operational phase EMP that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 06/01/2021

cc: Themba Koza

The Coega Development Corporation

Email: themba.koza@coega.co.za

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form