



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2087/AM2

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Mr Christopher Haw
Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (PTY)Ltd
2D Nautica
The Water Club
Beach Road
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CAPE TOWN
8005

Telephone Number: +27 (021) 421 9764
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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Haw

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 25 APRIL 2022 FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 150MW SPRINGBOK PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMERCIAL ELECTRICITY GENERATION ON AN IDENTIFIED SITE LOCATED ON THE FARM WELTEVREDE NO. 638 WITHIN MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 25 April 2022, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 15 May 2023 and the acknowledgement letter dated 24 May 2023, refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 25 April 2022, as follows:

1) **Amendment 1: Change of the Holder of the Authorisation Contact Details**

Applicant's contact details on Page 2 the EA are amended:

From:

"Mr Dick Berlijn
Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (PTY)Ltd
PO Box 785553
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number: +27 (011) 500 3680
Cell phone Number: +27 (074) 248 8488

M.S

Email Address: berlijn@subsolar.co.za

To:

“Mr Christopher Haw
Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (PTY)Ltd
2D Nautica, The Water Club
Beach Road, Granger Bay
CAPE TOWN
8005

Telephone Number: +27 (021) 421 9764
Email: permits@sola.africa

Reason for Amendment 1:

The ownership of the Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (PTY) Ltd has changed and therefore, the applicant requested that the details of the holder be amended.

2) Amendment 2: Amendment of Listed Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3

The Listed Activity 12 of Listing Notice 3 on Page 5 of the EA is amended:

From

“GN R 324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 12 (b)(i)(ii)(vi)

The clearance of an area of 300 square meters or more of indigenous vegetation...

(h) in the North West

(iv) within critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority.”

To

“GN R 324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 12 (b)(i)(ii)(vi)

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation

(b) in the Free State,

(i) within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment of 2004,

(ii) within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans and

(vi) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.”

Reason for Amendment 2:

The amendment is required to correct the Listed Activity in order to ensure that the information provided in the EA is project specific and correct.

3) Amendment 3: Amendment to the Power Line Corridor portion names

The Farm Name and Portion on Page 6 of the EA is amended:

From

“Power Line Corridor

- Farm Weltevrede No. 638
- Portion 5 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330
- Portion 21 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330

- Portion 6 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330"

To

"Power Line Corridor

- Farm Weltevrede No. 638
- Portion 5 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330
- **Remaining Extent of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330**
- Portion 6 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330"

21 Digit Surveyor General Code on Page 6 and 7 of the EA is amended:

From

<i>Springbok Power Plant</i>	<p><u>Solar Power Plant:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Weltevrede No. 638 - F0330000000063800000 <p><u>Power Line Corridor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Weltevrede No. 638 - F0330000000063800000 • Portion 5 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F0330000000033000005 • Portion 21 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F0330000000033000021 • Portion 6 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F0330000000033000006
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To

<i>Springbok Power Plant</i>	<p><u>Solar Power Plant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Weltevrede No. 638- F0330000000063800000 <p><u>Power Line Corridor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Weltevrede No. 638- F0330000000063800000 • Remaining Extent of the Farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F0330000000033000000 • Portion 6 of the Farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F0330000000033000006
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Reason for Amendment 3:

The amendment is required to correct the power line corridor portion names and the 21 Digit Surveyor General Code. The holder of the EA has come to learn that Portion 21 of the Farm Doorn River No. 330 is not a registered portion at the Deeds office. It is therefore still registered as one property with the Remaining Extent of the Farm Doorn River No. 330. The amendment is therefore required to correct the incorrect information included in the EA.

4) Amendment 4: Amendment to the Power Line Corridor Option:

The co-ordinates on page 7 and infrastructure description on page 9 of the EA is amended to reflect Option 2.

From

100m wide Power Line Corridor (Option 1)	Latitude	Longitude
A	28°10'54.60"S	26°48'31.26"E
B	28°10'52.96"S	26°48'29.55"E
C	28° 9'36.42"S	26°50'0.81"E

D	28° 9'30.51"S	26°50'4.89"E
E	28° 9'25.57"S	26°49'48.08"E
F	28° 9'32.57"S	26°49'45.24"E
G	28° 9'35.73"S	26°49'56.58"E
H	28°10'53.10"S	26°48'24.44"E
I	28°10'56.80"S	26°48'28.73"E

To:

100m wide Power Line Corridor (Option 2)	Latitude	Longitude
A	28°10'56.64"S	26°48'28.61"E
B	28°10'50.61"S	26°48'27.44"E
C	28°10'0.18"S	26°49'27.44"E
D	28° 9'41.27"S	26°49'26.91"E
E	28° 9'22.17"S	26°49'34.43"E
F	28°9'25.57"S	26°49'48.08"E

List of key infrastructure and components on Page 9 of the EA is amended:**From**

"The possible connection line route proposed to the Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation. Option 1 (preferred) is approximately 5.25km".

To

"The possible connection line route proposed to the Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation is **Option 2** is approximately **5.3km** long".

Reason for Amendment 4:

The Applicant requested that the co-ordinates on page 7 and infrastructure description on page 9 of the EA be amended to reflect Option 2. The motivation for the amendment is based on feedback received by the Applicant from Eskom, that the Grid Connection Corridor Option 2 for the Power Line Corridor would be more feasible from a technical perspective. The amendment is required to ensure that the Springbok Solar Power Plant can operate and evacuate the generated electricity into the nation grid, as required and confirmed by Eskom. Furthermore, the EIA Report indicated that both options are considered to be acceptable from an environmental perspective. There is expected to be a marginal difference in impact between the two assessed options and therefore Option 2 is considered to be appropriate for development.

5) Amendment 5: Change of BESS details, extent and coordinates

BESS Coordinates on Page 8 of the EA are amended:

From

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	Latitude	Longitude
1	28°10'57.22"S	26°48'28.41"E
2	28°11'3.61"S	26°48'35.53"E
3	28°11'3.54"S	26°48'20.75"E

To

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	Latitude	Longitude
1	28°10'56.68"S	26°48'28.71"E
2	28°11'2.46"S	26°48'21.98"E
3	28°11'0.10"S	26°48'32.47"E

Key infrastructure and components on Page 9 of the EA is hereby amended:**From:**

"Battery storage – Up to 500 MW Battery Storage Facility with a maximum height of 8m and a maximum volume of 1740m³ of batteries and associated operational, safety and control infrastructure".

To:

"Battery Storage- Up to **500 MWh** Battery Storage Facility with a maximum height of 8m and occupies a total of **2 hectares** of land within the EIA footprint including the operational, safety and control infrastructure".

Reason for Amendment 5:

The Applicant requested that the description provided on page 9 of the EA be updated to ensure that the details match the changes proposed to the BESS as part of the amendments to the layout. The change to the BESS includes a reduction in extent and changes to the coordinates of the location - the infrastructure is still within the same area as was assessed, however with the reduction of the extent the coordinate points have shifted slightly and therefore needs to be included in the EA to reflect the correct and updated information. Furthermore, the Holder of the EA is also requesting a correction of the capacity of the BESS.

6) Amendment 6: Relocation and increase in size of the Laydown Area and relocation and increase in size of the O&M Building

The Applicant requested for the relocation of the laydown area and increase in the size of the area as was included and indicated as part of the Approved Layout (Condition 13 of the EA). The laydown area will be relocated to the western boundary of the EIA footprint. The laydown area will increase from 0.19ha to 1ha. The amendment is also for the relocation of the O&M building northwest of its original position and an increase in the footprint from 0.02ha to 0.12ha.

Reason for Amendment 6:

The Applicant requested the relocation of the laydown area and increase in the size of the area as was included and indicated as part of the Approved Layout (Condition 13 of the EA). The need for the additional laydown area is based on the optimisation of construction activities to be undertaken and to ensure that equipment, materials and machinery can be stored in close proximity along the boundary of the site. No new listed activities will be triggered by the proposed amendment.

7) Amendment 7: Additional Laydown Area

The applicant requested the development of four additional laydown areas to the facility layout. These laydown areas are proposed to be located along various boundaries of the site. The extents of the laydown areas are approximately 6.83ha, 0.43ha, 0.72ha and 1.18ha respectively.

Reason for Amendment 7:

The Applicant requested the development of four additional laydown areas to the facility layout. The need for the additional laydown area is based on the optimisation of construction activities to be undertaken and to ensure that equipment, materials and machinery can be stored in close proximity along the boundary of the site. This will also reduce traffic through the site from the original/proposed to be amended laydown area (Amendment 4). The listed activities associated with the laydown areas (e.g. clearance of vegetation) has been fully assessed for the entire development footprint. No new listed activities will be triggered by the proposed amendment.

8) Amendment 8: Additional fencing to the Facility Layout.

The Applicant requested the addition of fencing within the EIA footprint to close off the existing servitudes within the EIA footprint from the proposed facility infrastructure, and to also fence off the full extent of the EIA Footprint assessed. The applicant requested that the proposed amended facility layout include the additional fenced area. The entire EIA footprint will be fenced.

Reason for Amendment 8:

The additional fencing is required to close off the Eskom servitude and to ensure the Springbok Solar Power Plant is secure and cannot be freely accessed by unauthorised individuals. No new listed activities will be triggered by the proposed amendment.

9) Amendment 9: Approval of the Amended Facility Layout Plan.

The Applicant requested the approval of the amended facility layout as per the amendments 1-8 requested above. The facility layout, dated 13 December 2021, has been approved as per condition 13 of the EA. The amended layout is hereby approved.

Reason for amendment 9:

The Applicant requested the approval of the amended facility layout as per the amendments 1-8 requested above. The facility layout, dated 13 December 2021, has been approved as per condition 13 of the EA, and therefore approval of the amended layout proposed is requested.

10) Amendment 10: Approval of the Amended Facility Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

The Applicant requested the approval of the amended facility EMPr, which has been updated with the amended facility layout, the specific conditions of the EA and the recommendations from the Biodiversity Walk-through Report. The facility EMPr, dated 13 December 2021, has been approved as per condition 14 of the EA. The amended EMPr is herewith approved.

Reason for Amendment 10:

The Applicant requested the approval of the amended facility EMPr, which has been updated with the amended facility layout, the specific conditions of the EA and the recommendations from the Biodiversity Walk-through Report. The facility EMPr, dated 13 December 2021, has been approved as per condition 14 of the EA, and therefore approval of the amended EMPr is requested.

11) Amendment 11: Amendment to the description of key infrastructure and components

The description of key infrastructure and components on Page 08 of the EA is amended:

From:

"PV Panel Array - To produce up to 150MW, the proposed facility will require numerous linked cells placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a panel. Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays

which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will be tilted at a northern angle to capture the most sun.”

To:

“PV Panel Array - To produce up to 150MW, the proposed facility will require numerous linked cells placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a panel. Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV Panels will be tilted at an **optimal** angle to capture the most sun.”

List providing description of key infrastructure and components on Page 08 of the EA is amended:

From:

“Wiring to Central Inverter s- Sections of the PV array will be wired to central inverters. The inverter is a pulse width mode inverter that converts direct current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity at grid frequency.”

To:

“Wiring to **Inverters** - Sections of the PV array will be wired to inverters. The inverter is a pulse width mode inverter that converts direct current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity at grid frequency.”

List providing description of key infrastructure and components on Page 08 and 09 of the EA is amended:

From:

“Connection to the grid - Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 132kV. An onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid. Whilst Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has not yet received a cost estimate letter from Eskom, it is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation or to any of the existing 132kV lines. The Project will inject up to 100MW into the National Grid. The installed capacity will be approximately 150MW. The possible connection line route proposed to the Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation option 1 (preferred) is approximately 5.25km. The proposed powerline was assessed within a 100m wide corridor. The area surrounding the substation was also assessed.”

To:

“Connection to the grid - Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 132kV. An onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid. **Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has received a cost estimate letter from Eskom, the generation from the facility will tie in with Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation or to any of the existing 132kV lines. The project will inject energy into the National Grid. The capacity will be approximately 150MW. The possible connection line route proposed to the Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation is Option 2 which is approximately 5.3km long. The proposed powerline was assessed within a 100m wide corridor. The area surrounding the substation was also assessed.**”

List providing description of key infrastructure and components on Page 09 of the EA is amended:

From

"Roads- Access will be obtained via the S239 gravel road off the R730 Regional Route. An internal site networks will also be required to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure. The access and internal roads will be constructed within a 25-meter corridor."

To

"Roads- Access will be obtained via the S485 gravel road off the R730 Regional Route. An internal site network will also be required to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure. The access and internal roads will be constructed within a 25-meter corridor."

Reason for Amendment 11:

The Applicant requested amendments to the description of key infrastructure and components in order to be aligned with the rest of the amendments requested. It must be noted that the provincial roads authority confirmed the road name to be S485 and not S239 and therefore the information in the EA must be updated accordingly.

12) Amendment 12: Amendment to substation coordinates

Substation Coordinates on Page 8 of the EA is amended:

From

Substation corner coordinates Option 1 and Option 2	Latitude	Longitude
A	28°10'54.60"S	26°48'31.34"E
B	28°10'58.21"S	26°48'35.31"E
C	28°11'0.36"S	26°48'32.78"E
D	28°10'56.77"S	26°48'28.83"E

To

Substation	Latitude	Longitude
1	28°10'58.27"S	26°48'27.60"E
2	28°11'0.59"S	26°48'30.23"E
3	28°10'58.28"S	26°48'32.80"E
4	28°10'55.97"S	26°48'30.23"E

Reason for Amendment 12:

The description provided on page 8 of the EA is requested to be updated by the Holder of the EA to ensure that the details match the changes proposed to the substation location as part of the amendments to the layout. The change to the substation includes a slight change to the coordinates of the location - the infrastructure is still within the same area as was approved, however due to the floodline, the Substation has had to move outside of the floodline.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 25 April 2022.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013) which stipulates that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when

collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA 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 as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

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:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@environment.gov.za

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, 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.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal authorisations](https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal%20authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dffe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director, Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: *08/02/2023*

cc:	Herman Alberts	Environamics CC	Email: herman@environamics.co.za
			Email: lisa@environamics.co.za
	M.F. Lepheana	Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Email: tshidi.lenona@matjhabeng.co.za
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