



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Reference: 12/12/20/1913

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Ms. Tammy Kruger
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PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms. Kruger

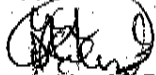
ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT AND THE PLAN OF STUDY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A WATERBERG PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT ON A SITE NEAR VAALWATER, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

- 1) The above documents dated July 2010 and received by the Department on 26 July 2010 refers.
- 2) The Department has evaluated the submitted Final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment, dated July 2010 and is satisfied that the document complies with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2006. The Final Scoping Report is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of GN R.385 (31) (1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2006.
- 3) Please be informed that comments from Limpopo Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism are still outstanding. These comments will be forwarded to you as soon as they have been received and need to be included in the final EIR.
- 4) You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the plan of study for environmental impact assessment. You are requested to submit two (2) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department.
- 5) Please ensure that comments from all relevant authorities are submitted to the Department with the final EIR. This includes but is not limited to Limpopo Provincial Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; Department of Water Affairs; Modimolle Local Municipality; and Eskom.

- 6) Should the consultant be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- 7) In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIR:
- a) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
 - b) The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the photovoltaic plant, power lines, and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale. Sensitive areas such as rivers and wetland areas should be shown clearly.
 - c) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
 - d) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the vegetation ecology with regard to lowland-highland interface in the locality should be indicated.
 - e) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the livestock farming in the area.
 - f) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the eco-tourism in the area.
 - g) The EIR should include information on the following:-
 - Environmental costs vs benefits of the solar farm activity;
 - Financial implications to tourism in the area; and
 - Economic viability of the facility to the surrounding area and how the local community will benefit.
 - h) Information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained?
 - i) A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.
 - j) Should blasting be required, appropriate mitigation measures should be provided.
- 8) The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of GN R.385 (77) with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and GN R. 385 (58) and (59) with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in GN R. 385 (58) (3a-3g).

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Ms Lize McCourt

CHIEF DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Mr Dumisane Mthembu

Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 21/09/2010

cc: Alan van Coller

Thupela Energy

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