



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0001942/2013 and DEA/EIA/0002030/2013

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/568

Enquiries: Thabile Sangweni

Telephone: (012) 395 1761 Fax: (012) 320 7539 E-mail: TSangweni@environment.gov.za

Ms Diane Erasmus
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Aurecon Centre
1 Century City Drive
Waterford Precinct
CENTURY CITY
7441

Fax Number: (044) 805 5454

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Erasmus

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HYDROPOWER STATION AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT BOEGOEBERG DAM ON THE ORANGE RIVER NEAR GLOBLERSHOOP, !KHEIS AND SIYATHEMBA LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated September 2013 and received by this Department on 12 September 2013 refer.

This Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the PoSEIA dated September 2013 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the Environmental Impact Assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the Draft Scoping Report and submitted as part of the FSR must be taken into consideration when preparing an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the proposed development. Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (DAFF), the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), the local and district municipalities, the Department of Water

Affairs (DWA), the Department of Energy, the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), water and irrigation bodies, farmers unions and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).

Please be advised that the contact person for renewable projects at the SKA office is Dr Adrian Tiplady and he can be contacted on Tel: 011 442 2434 or E-mail: atiplady@ska.ac.za.

You are also required to address all issues raised by organs of state and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) prior to the submission of the EIR to the Department.

Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

The EAP must, in order to give effect to Regulation 56(2), give registered interested and affected parties access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report in writing within 21 days before submitting the final environmental impact assessment report to the Department.

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one legible A3 regional map of the area and the site layout map to illustrate the facility's position and associated infrastructure. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and,
- A3 size locality map.

In addition, the following additional information is required for the EIR:

- i. The Environmental Impact Assessment report must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- ii. Written comment from the provincial Department of Environmental Affairs indicating that the activities applied for under GNR 546 applies. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.
- iii. 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.
- iv. The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the power lines and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
- v. Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
- vi. 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? Proof of these agreements must be provided.
- vii. A copy of the final site layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - Foundation footprint;
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - Construction period laydown footprint;

- Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Sub-station(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads);
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - Cut and fill areas along roads and at sub-station/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill;
 - Borrow pits;
 - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and,
 - All "no-go" areas.
- viii. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- ix. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- x. A shapefile of the preferred development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp; .shx; .dbf; .prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avl and/or the .lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title.

The shape file must be submitted to:

Postal Address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
 Private Bag X447
 Pretoria
 0001

Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
 Fedsure Forum Building (corner of Pretorius and Lillian Ngoyi Streets)
 4th Floor South Tower
 315 Pretorius Street
 Pretoria
 0002

For Attention: Mr Muhammad Essop
 Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Telephone Number: (012) 395 1734

Fax Number: (012) 320 7539

Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za

The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIR must include the following:

- i. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIR and the specialist studies conducted.
- ii. The final site layout map.
- iii. Measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting.
- iv. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- v. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- vi. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
- vii. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
- viii. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- ix. An open space management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- x. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- xi. A transportation plan for the transport of the components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment
- xii. A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- xiii. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- xiv. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- xv. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.

The EIR must include a **cumulative assessment** of the facility if there are other similar facilities in the region. The specialist studies e.g. biodiversity, visual, noise etc. must also assess the facility in terms of potential cumulative impacts.

Please ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice activities are applied for, that the Listing Notice activities applied for are specific and that they can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description.

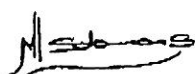
The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in Regulation 56(3a-3h).

Furthermore, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD and two (2) hard copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department as per Regulation 34(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

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 Ishaam Abader

Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement
Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Milicent Solomons

Designation: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: 17/10/2013.

cc:	Ms Anga Yaphi	Northern Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Nature Conservation	Tel: 054 332 2885	Fax: 054 331 1155
	The Municipal Manager	IKheis Local Municipality	Tel: 054 833 9500	Fax: 054 833 9509
	The Municipal Manager	Siyathemba Local Municipality	Tel: 054 871 5500	Fax: 054 871 5500