



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedsure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

**NEAS Reference: DEAEIA/0000734/2011**

**DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2566**

**Enquiries: Fiona Grimett**

**Telephone: 012-395-1793 Fax: 012-320-7539 E-mail: [Fgrimett@environment.gov.za](mailto:Fgrimett@environment.gov.za)**

Mr. Simon Haw  
Aurora Power Solutions (Pty) Ltd  
2D Nautica Building, Water Club Complex  
100 Beach Road  
**MOULLIE POINT**  
8001

Fax no: 086 513 8648

### **PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Mr. Haw

#### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R.543/544/546: DEVELOPMENT OF 19MW PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER GENERATION PLANT ON THE FARM ADAMS 328 NEAR HOTAZEL, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

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 10(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 (twelve) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached document. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should the applicant or any other party wish to appeal any aspect of the decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of the EA, by means of one of the following methods:

By facsimile: 012 320 7561;

By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria, 0001; or

By hand: 2nd Floor, Fedsure Building, North Tower,  
Cnr. Lilian Ngoyi (Van der Walt) and Pretorius Streets, Pretoria.

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.

Please include the Department (*Attention: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations*) in the list of interested and affected parties, notified through your notification letter to interested and affected parties, for record purposes.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing to:**

Mr T Zwane, Senior Legal Administration Officer (Appeals), of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Zwane can also be contacted at:

Tel: 012-310-3929

Email: [AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za](mailto:AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za)

The authorised activity/ies shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation. Further, please note that the Minister may, on receipt of appeals against the authorisation or conditions thereof suspend the authorisation pending the outcome of the appeals procedure.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Mark Gordon**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**  
Date: 10 SEPTEMBER 2012

CC:	Mr Roelof Letter	EScience Associates (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011-718-6380	Fax: 086-599-4687
	Mr T. Makaudi	NCDEANC	Tel: 053-807 7464	Fax: 053-831-3530
	Mr Martin Tsatsimpe	!Kai! Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality	Tel: 053-712-9418	Fax: 053-712-3581
	Mr T Zwane	Appeals Authority (DEA)	Tel: 012-310-3929	Fax: 012-320-7561
	Mr S Malaza	Compliance Monitoring (DEA)	Tel: 012-310-3397	Fax: 012-320-5744

**APPEALS PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2010 (THE REGULATIONS) AS PER GN R. 543 OF 2010. TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE APPLICANT AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA)**

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)</b>
1. Receive EA from the relevant Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA]).	1. Receive EA from Applicant/Consultant.
2. Within 12 days of date of the EA notify all IAPs of the EA and draw their attention to their right to appeal against the EA in terms of Chapter 7 of the Regulations.	2. N/A.
3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).	3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA. with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).
4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide each registered IAP with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.	4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide the applicant with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.
5. The Applicant must also serve on each IAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.</li> </ul>	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.</li> </ul>
6. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.	6. The appeal must be submitted to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.
7. Any IAP who received a notice of intention to appeal may submit a responding statement to that appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.	7. An Applicant who received notice of intention to may submit a responding statement to the appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.

**NOTES:**

1. **An appeal against a decision must be lodged with:-**
  - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs if the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
  - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development if the applicant is the Department of Water Affairs and the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
  
2. **An appeal lodged with:-**
  - a) the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
  - b) the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
  
3. **An appeal must be:-**
  - a) submitted in writing;
  - b) accompanied by:
    - a statement setting out the grounds of appeal;
    - supporting documentation which is referred to in the appeal; and
    - a statement that the appellant has complied with regulation 62 (2) or (3) together with copies of the notices referred to in regulation 62.



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010

**19MW PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER GENERATION PLANT ON THE FARM ADAMS 328 NEAR  
HOTAZEL, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality**

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>12/12/20/2566</i>
<b>NEAS reference number:</b>	<i>DEA/EIA/0000734/2011</i>
<b>Last amended:</b>	<i>First issue</i>
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	<i>Aurora Power Solutions (Pty) Ltd</i>
<b>Location of activity:</b>	<i>NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE: Within the !Kai! Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality</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 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 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 the Department hereby authorises –

### **Aurora Power Solutions (Pty) Ltd (APS)**

with the following contact details –

Mr. Simon Haw  
Aurora Power Solutions  
2D Nautica Building, Water Club Complex  
100 Beach Road  
**MOULLIE POINT**  
8001

Tel: 021 421 9764

Fax: 086 513 8648

Cell: 079 397 5378

E-mail: [simon@apsolutions.co.za](mailto:simon@apsolutions.co.za)

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notices 1, 2 or 3 (GN R. 544, 545 & 546):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 1:</u>                      The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity where:                      i. the electricity output is more than 10 megawatts but less than 20 megawatts.</p>	<p>The construction of a 19MW solar power plant.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 10:</u>                      The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity -                      (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</p>	<p>The construction of a power line of less than 275kV to evacuate electricity from the solar power plant to the national grid.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 23:</u>                      The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to –                      (ii) residential, retail, commercial, recreational, industrial or institutional use, outside an urban area and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare but less than 20 hectares; -                      except where such transformation takes place –                      (i) for linear activities; or                      (ii) for purposes of agriculture or afforestation, in which case Activity 16 of Notice No. R. 545 applies.</p>	<p>The construction of the solar power plant will result in the transformation of an undeveloped area of approximately 19.5 ha.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546 Item 4:</u>                      The construction of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres</p>	<p>There is an existing access road to the site. Additional internal access roads will be required for the solar power plant.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546 Item 14:</u>                      The clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes indigenous vegetation</p>	<p>The construction of the solar power plant will require the clearance of indigenous</p>

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
(a) In Northern Cape: i. All areas outside urban areas.	vegetation of an area of approximately 19.5 ha.

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated June 2012 at:

Alternative S1	Latitude	Longitude
Middle point of activity	27° 23' 0.00" S	23° 00' 00.0" E

- for the construction of 19MW solar power plant on Farm Adams 328 near Hotazel, !Kai! Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality, John Taolo Gaetsewe (formerly Kgalagadi) District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The solar power generation facility is to accommodate an array of Photovoltaic (PV) and / or Concentrated Photovoltaic panels (CPV), with a generation capacity of 19MW. The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- Foundations to support the PV panels.
- PV and/or CPV array: the panels are placed in rows, with a buffer from the boundary fence and access roads in between each row. Panels will have a junction box located below the rows where all connections between rows meet up. Underground cables run from this box to the inverter/ transformer house at 400V-1000V Direct Current (DC).
- Access and inside roads/paths: Existing paths are to be used where possible. The turning circle of trucks will be taken into consideration and use of roads /paths will be minimal when the plant is in operation.
- Trenching: all DC and AC wiring within the PV plant will be buried underground. A concrete slab will be placed where vehicles pass over cable trenches.
- Inverter/ transformer building: 6m x 3m brick buildings located within the PV and/or CPV array, each containing an inverter and a step up transformer, will be constructed. The number of buildings will be dependent on the size of the plant and inverters chosen. Alternatively a pre-packaged inverter/transformer housed in a concrete substation will be utilised.

- Combined guard house/ control room: one (1) brick building of approximately 100m<sup>2</sup> on the perimeter of the plant. The control room will contain switchgear and monitoring equipment for the solar plant. The buildings will be a standard height of approximately 3m.
- Connection to grid: the normal components and size of a distribution-rated electrical substation and power lines will be required. A small substation for the plant will be located outside of the control room. The solar facility will connect to the existing Eskom substation on site (the Doughton substation).

## **Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation**

### **Scope of authorisation**

1. The development of the 19.5ha solar facility on the three preferred areas with coordinates indicated above in the western and south western section of the property is approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this 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 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 authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. This activity must commence within a period of three (3) years from the date of issue of this 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.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.



8. The holder of an environmental authorisation must notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.

#### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 12 (twelve) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
  - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
  - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
  - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
  - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
  - 11.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in the newspaper(s) contemplated and used in terms of regulation 54(2)(c) and (d) and which newspaper was used for the placing of advertisements as part of the public participation process.

#### **Management of the activity**

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved. This EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

### **Monitoring**

13. The applicant must appoint a suitably 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 authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
- 13.1. The ECO shall be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.
- 13.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 13.3. The ECO shall keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 13.4. The ECO shall remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.
- 13.5. 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.

### **Recording and reporting to the Department**

14. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department.
15. The holder of the authorisation must 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 within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
16. The environmental audit report 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 EMPr.
17. 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.

### **Commencement of the activity**

18. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
19. An appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998 (as amended), does not suspend an environmental authorisation or exemption, or any provisions or conditions attached thereto, or any directive, unless the Minister, MEC or delegated organ of state directs otherwise.
20. Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorisation pending appeal procedures, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the Minister allows you to commence with such an activity in writing.

### **Notification to authorities**

21. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. 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. This notification period may coincide with the notice of intent to appeal period.

### **Operation of the activity**

22. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

### **Site closure and decommissioning**

23. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall 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**

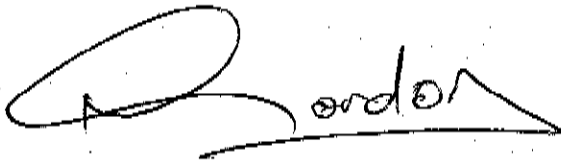
24. A secondary vegetation survey must be undertaken on the exact 19.5 ha area chosen within the preferred areas for development of the solar facility. A copy of this study must be submitted to the Department prior to commencement of the activity. This survey must be undertaken by a qualified regional vegetation specialist prior to construction commencing and during the optimal flowering period, in order to:
  - identify any species for which permits will be required to allow their removal or destruction;
  - identify plant specimens of conservation concern which would qualify for plant rescue or for which seed should be obtained to assist with their re-establishment; and
  - document the species present, their composition and ecological drivers, in order to facilitate future rehabilitation of the area.
25. A search and rescue programme must be implemented by a qualified specialist prior to the clearance of vegetation for any faunal species of conservation concern that are unable to relocate of their own accord from the areas intended for development.
26. All necessary permits must be obtained from the relevant authority for the removal or destruction of affected indigenous protected and endangered plant and animal species.
27. Copies of permits in respect of 1.28 above required must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
28. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
29. Construction activities must not intrude on the waterholes / pans on the site.
30. A final layout plan for the activity must be submitted to the Department for approval, prior to commencement of the activity.

### **General**

31. A copy of this authorisation and the approved EMPr must be kept at the property where the activity/ will be undertaken. The authorisation and approved EMPr must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.

32. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
33. 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 applicant or his 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 applicant 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: 10 SEPTEMBER 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gordon', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

**Mr Mark Gordon**

**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 June 2012;
- b) The comments received from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the South African Heritage Resources Agency, the Square Kilometre Array South Africa, organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated June 2012;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated June 2012 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix G 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 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 additional power supply to the grid will result in more reliable and cleaner power supply and consequent opportunities for business expansion in the area. The major benefit of the solar facility is that local labour will be sourced from the local communities.
- c) The BAR dated June 2012 identified all relevant environmental legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated June 2012 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2010 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 June 2012 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 June 2012 is accurate and credible.
- e) Both Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) and / or conventional Photovoltaic (PV) technologies may be used in the development of the facility as CPV technology will not result in any additional impacts above those anticipated for conventional PV technology.
- f) Three approximate preferred areas were identified within the study area for the construction of the 19.5 hectare solar power plant. Only 19.5 ha of the three recommended areas will be developed, and not the entire area.
- g) The study area is located within a *least threatened* vegetation unit. The three identified preferred areas for the facility have been informed by the flora report, which shows the preferred areas to have the least influence on flora on a local scale. A secondary vegetation assessment will be undertaken to identify any protected plant species and obtain the necessary permits prior to construction.
- h) 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 process.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the proposed activity 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 proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.