



## **environmental affairs**

Department  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/2052

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### **PER MAIL / E-MAIL**

Dear Sir/Madam

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VELD PV SOUTH SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE REMAINDER OF THE FARM 53 HARAMOEP, NEAR AGGENEYS IN THE NORTHERN CAPE**

The application form and draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated September 2019 and received by this Department on 05 September 2019 refer.

### **The Department has reviewed the draft BAR and has the following comments to be addressed in the final BAR:**

#### **Activities applied for**

- The Department has noted that the application form on page 10 and 11, section 7 has included the following activities i.e. activity 24 of Listing Notice 1 (983), activity 4 and 12 of Listing Notice 3 (985) as well as activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 (984). However; Figure 21 on page 24 of the Botanical Assessment Report dated August 2019 shows that the entire proposed development site is located in a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA2). Therefore, you are required to clarify the applicability of activity 24 of Listing Notice 1 and activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 as they are activities which will be undertaken outside the Critical Biodiversity Areas.
- Furthermore, ensure that only relevant applicable activities and sub-activities triggered by this development are applied for and they can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- If the activities applied for in the application form are amended and/or changed, an amended application form must be submitted with the final BAR.

#### **Specialist studies**

- The Department has noted that the Storm Water Impact Assessment study was conducted by a specialist employed by Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd the same company that compiled the draft BAR. Therefore, a specialist who meet the requirements of Regulation 13 (1) (a) and 13 (1) (b) of NEMA EIA Regulations

2014, as amended, must be appointed by the applicant to externally review the study. The recommendation of the external specialist must be submitted with the FBAR.

- Please ensure that official declaration of interest forms for all the specialists are completed and provided in the final BAR as required in terms of Regulation 13 (1) (a) of NEMA EIA regulations of 2014, as amended.

### **Maps**

- Please provide sensitivity map overlaid by the development footprint, showing all the sensitive areas including Critical Biodiversity Areas, dunes or rocky outcrops and the buffer zones. This map must have clear legend communicating with the content of the map.
- Further, ensure that all maps and layout plans at scale of 1:50 000, depict all the infrastructure of the development inclusive of access road, internal access roads, on site substation, temporary construction areas, buildings and grid connection power line.

### **Public participation process (PPP)**

- It has been noted that there is no advert newspaper which shows that the PPP was undertaken for a period of 30 days as per the requirement of the Regulation, 2014, as amended. Therefore, you are required to include such in the FBAR.
- Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final BAR. This includes but not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Conservation, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation, Khâi Ma Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality and Department of Water and Sanitation.
- Ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed development are adequately addressed in the final BAR.
- Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

### **General Comments:**

You must note that the final BAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of BAR in accordance with Appendix 1 and Regulation 19(1)(a) and 19(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Further, note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

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 Environmental Affairs**

**Signed by: Ms Olivia Letlalo**

**Designation: Control Environmental Officer: Strategic Infrastructure Developments**

**Date: 01/10/2019**

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