

George
Suite 201
2nd Floor
Bloemhof Building
65 York Street
George 6529
PO Box 509
George 6530
South Africa

T +27 44 874 2165
F +27 44 873 5843
E george@arecongroup.com
W arecongroup.com



10 October 2019

Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Attention: Thando Boo

Dear Mr Boo,

**PROPOSED VELD PV SOUTH SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED
INFRASTRUCTURE, ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM 53 HARAMOEP, NEAR AGGENEYS IN THE
NORTHERN CAPE**

Submission of the Final Basic Assessment Report – DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2052

Our application, draft Basic Assessment Report dated September 2019 and your comments thereon dated 1 October 2019 refer.

1. Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd (Aurecon) has been appointed by Veld PV South (Pty) Ltd (Veld) as the independent environmental practitioner (EAP) to undertake a Basic Assessment Process (BAR) as required by the by the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (EIA Regulations, as amended) pursuant to the National Environmental Management Act (Act of 107 of 1998) (NEMA) for the above project.
2. The project comprises a 75 MW Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility on the farm Haramoep (Remainder of Farm 53) in the Namakwa District Municipality approximately 20 km north-west of Aggeneys in the Northern Cape.
3. Please note that Veld has also submitted an Application Form for a second solar facility, known as Veld PV North (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2051) on a separate site on the same farm.
4. Please find herewith the Final Basic Assessment Report (1x hard copy) and USB including all the annexures.
5. A completed and original Application Form for the proposed Veld PV South Solar Energy Facility is attached as Annexure F to Basic Assessment Report as submitted to your offices on 11 July 2019. Please note that an **amended Application Form** is attached to this cover letter as **Annexure 1** (see point 8 below) to update details regarding the project description that have changed since the first submission, the properties affected and the listed activities.
6. Note that a Scoping and EIA process was initiated for this project in 2016 but was stopped due to funders withdrawing. No application was submitted at the time, but a pre-application meeting was held with DEA.
7. The process has now changed to a Basic Assessment due to the site being within the Springbok REDZ.
8. We respond to your comments contained in the aforementioned letter from DEA dated 1 October 2019 as follows:

Activities applied for

- The application form has been amended and is attached as **Annexure 1** to this letter.

Specialist Studies

- The Storm Water Impact Assessment study has been reviewed by an independent external specialist that meets the requirements of Regulation 13(1)(a) and (b) of NEMA EIA Regulations as amended. The Reviewers report is attached to this cover letter as **Annexure 4**. The reviewer did not make any findings that were contrary to the main findings of the original report, however he has made some recommendations to improve the quality of the report. A revision of this report will be submitted under cover of a separate letter due to challenges with coordination of submissions prior to the submission deadline, as discussed telephonically with the case officer.
- Declaration forms of the specialists are attached as **Annexure 2** to this letter.

Maps

- Improved clear, readable maps that show the sensitivity of the site are attached under **Annexure 3** to this letter. To this end the maps are attached as:

Annexure 3A: Specialist Buffers

Annexure 3B: CBAs and ESAs

Annexure 3C: NFEPA Wetlands, Rivers and Aquatic Features

Annexure 3D: NPAES and IBA

Annexure 3E: Vegetation Type

- Layout plans of at a scale of 1:10 000 are included in **Annexure 5** of this cover letter.

Public Participation Process

- Proof of the PPP can be found in Annexure C of the Final BAR, including adverts, comments from all stakeholders, responses, and correspondence indicating the attempts made to elicit comment. The Public Participation Process was conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40 41, 42 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

General Comments

- The Final BAR complies with the requirements of Appendix 1 and Regulation 19(1)(a) and 19(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
- The Final BAR is due to be submitted on or before 11 October 2019.
- The applicant has been informed that no activity may commence prior to the Environmental Authorisation being granted.

9. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries - we await your further response.

Yours sincerely
AURECON



Charles Norman
Manager: Environment and Planning