



## **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:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/2102

**Enquiries:** Mr Sizwe Mnkomo

**Telephone:** 012 399 9431 **E-mail:** smnkomo@environment.gov.za

Mr Charles Norman  
Aurecon South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 509, George 6530  
**GEORGE**  
6539

**Tel:** (044) 8055 433  
**E-mail:** Charles.Norman@aurecongroup.com

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

Dear Mr Norman

### **COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED VELD PV NORTH SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON HARAMOEP (REMAINDER OF FARM 53) WITHIN NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The application form and draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 12 November 2019 and received by this Department on 06 December 2019 refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final BAR:

#### **Activities applied for**

- The Department has noted in section 7 on page 10 and 11 of the application form that activity 24 of Listing Notice 1 (983) and activity 15 of Listing Notice 2 (984) have been omitted but included on page 29 and 30 of the DBAR. Clarify if these activities are applicable and include them in the amended application form to be submitted with the FBAR.
- Ensure that only relevant listed activities are applied for and 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, an amended application form must be submitted with the final BAR.

#### **Specialist studies**

- Ensure that the declaration of interest forms submitted are completed on a DEA form as provided on the Department's website. The above must be included in the final BAR.
- The Department submits that this application was withdrawn on 24 October 2019 as there was an outstanding comments/recommendations from the external reviewer (as per your letter dated 11 October 2019) with regard to the hydrological report/storm water impact assessment study that was conducted by a specialist from the same company as the EAP. However, it has been noted that still the Storm Water Impact Assessment study submitted was conducted by a specialist from the same company as the EAP. Therefore, you are required to submit the recommendations on the abovementioned study, reviewed by an external specialist who meet the requirements of Regulation 13(1) (a) and (b) of NEMA EIA Regulations 2014 as amended, with the FBAR.

- It was mentioned on page 137 of the DBAR that the impacts on landscape are expected to be high and will remain un-mitigated. Therefore, you are required to provide the reason why this development should proceed considering that mitigation on landscape would not be mitigated.
- It has been noted that a height of 5m above the ground level will be considered as a measure to mitigate visual impacts, therefore, you are required to indicate by the number, which PVs will be 5m above the ground and which will be more than 5m above the ground.

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

- 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, the Khai-Ma Local Municipality, and Namakwa District Municipality.
- Also ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity 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: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects**

**Date: 13/01/2020**

cc:	Jason Cope	Veld PV North (Pty) Ltd	Tel: (021) 020 1044	Email: jcope@veidren.co.za
	Edward Cloete	Khai-Ma Local Municipality	Tel: (054) 933 1000	Email: munman@khaima.gov.za
	Mr T Makaudi	Northern Cape (DENC)	Tel: (053) 807 7300	Email: tmakaudi@ncpg.gov.za