



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

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Enquiries: Ms Portia Makitla

Telephone: 012-399 9411 **E-mail:** pmakitla@environment.gov.za

Charles Norman
Aurecon
P O Box 509
GEORGE
6530

Telephone Number: 044 874 2165
Email Address: george@arecogroup.com

Dear Sir/Madam

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED VELD PV NORTH SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM 53 HARAMOEP NEAR AGGENEYS IN THE NORTHERN CAPE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned draft report. Based on the information provided in the specialist report, the vegetation found in the study area is classified as very low sensitive and no species of conservation concern observed on site.

Notwithstanding the above, the following recommendation must be considered in the final report:

- According to the Botanical Impact Assessment report the proposed study area is situated within an area which is classified as marginally Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) 1 and mostly CBA2; therefore development footprint must be restricted to the low sensitive or disturbed area;
- The report states that no alien invasive plants species were observed on site but care must taken during construction not to introduce the invasive plant species on site;
- Species listed in terms of TOPs and Red Data list (if there is any on site) must not be disturbed or removed without a permit from relevant authorities;
- Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors.

The proposed development might pose a serious threat such as entrapment, displacement, collision risk, electrocution etc. of the Important Bird Area (IBA) trigger species, therefore the final report to be submitted for authorisation must comply with all requirements as outlined in the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in

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Southern Africa in order to avoid or reduce the impacts that might occur as a result of the proposed development.

Yours faithfully



Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Environmental affairs

Date: 20/01/2020