



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

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1035

Enquiries: Ms Mmamohale Kabasa

Telephone: (012) 399 9420 **E-mail:** MKabasa@environment.gov.za

Ms Cleo Forster
juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd.
24th Floor Metropolitan Centre
7 Walter Sisulu Avenue Foreshore
CAPE TOWN
8001

Telephone Number: (021) 831 6117
Email Address: cleo.forster@juwi.co.za

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Forster

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 982/983/985 CONSTRUCTION OF THE 100MW SKEERHOK 3 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON PORTION 0 SMUTSHOEK 395 NORTH-EAST OF THE TOWN OF KENHARDT WITHIN THE !KHEIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant an environmental authorisation to you. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the National Environmental Management Act: the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of this EA, of the Department's decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013) which stipulates that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

MS

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Street
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the NEMA, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with any activity authorised in the EA until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 19/02/2018

cc:	K Stroebe	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research	Email: kstroebe@csir.co.za
	O Riba	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	Email: ORiba@ncpg.gov.za ; oriba.denc@gmail.com
	J Esau	!Kheis Local Municipality	Email: Jenkins.esau@gmail.com



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014

**Construction of the 100MW Skeerhok 3 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility on Portion 0 of the Farm
Smutshoek No. 395 north-east of the town of Kenhardt within the !Kheis Local Municipality in the
Northern Cape Province**

ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/1035</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Portion 0 Smutshoek Farm No. 395 !Kheis Local Municipality; ZF Mgcawu District Municipality Northern Cape Province</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, based on 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 environmental 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 No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

JUWI RENEWABLE ENERGIES (PTY) LTD.

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Ms Cleo Forster
24th Floor Metropolitan Centre
7 Walter Sisulu Avenue Foreshore
CAPE TOWN
8001

Telephone Number: (021) 831 7430
Cell Phone Number: (079) 892 7977
Email Address: cleo.forster@juwi.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983) and Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 985):

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 11 (i):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i></p> <p><i>(i) Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kV."</i></p>	<p>Onsite infrastructure including underground cabling for collection of electricity, with a capacity of up to 275kV would be required to connect the proposed PV facility to the proposed onsite central 132kV substation. The proposed facility is situated outside of the urban edge.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 12 (x) and (xii):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs</i></p> <p><i>a) within a watercourse..."</i></p>	<p>The 100MW solar PV facility will entail the construction of building infrastructure and structures within 32m of the watercourses.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 19 (i):</u></p> <p><i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse...."</i></p>	<p>The project will entail the excavation, removal, moving and infilling of more than 10m³ of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from the nearby watercourses for construction purposes.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 24 (ii):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road–</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres; but excluding a road..."</i></p>	<p>Existing roads will be used to gain access to the preferred site. The existing roads can be accessed from the R27. Existing internal gravel roads will be used where possible.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Activity 28:</u></p> <p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i></p>	<p>The land is currently used for agricultural purposes (mainly grazing). The 100MW solar PV facility, which is considered to be a commercial/industrial development, will have an estimated footprint of approximately 300ha.</p>

<i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;..."</i>	
<p><u>GN R. 984 Activity 1:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding- "</i></p>	The project will entail the construction of a 100MW solar PV facility (i.e. facility for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource). The proposed project take place outside of an urban area.
<p><u>GN R. 984 Activity 15:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding-"</i></p>	The 100MW solar PV facility will have an estimated footprint of approximately 300ha. As a result, more than 20ha of indigenous vegetation would be removed for the construction of the facility.
<p><u>GN R. 985 Item 18:</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 meters, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometer:</i></p> <p><i>g) Northern Cape</i></p> <p><i>ii) Outside Urban Areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ii)Areas within 100 meters from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.</i></p>	The onsite farm road will need to be widened by more than 4m within 100m of onsite drainage features (where required). The proposed project will take place outside of an urban area.

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated March 2018 at:

Preferred site	Latitude	Longitude
North-West Corner	29° 2'17.24"S	21°24'13.30"E
North-East Corner	29° 2'17.01"S	21°24'54.17"E
South-West Corner	29° 3'17.56"S	21°24'13.16"E
South-East Corner	29° 3'17.49"S	21°24'25.51"E
Substation	29° 3'16.15"S	21°24'19.81"E

Loop-in loop-out lines (Alternative connection 1)		
Start	29° 0'34.88"S	21°22'48.51"E
Middle	29° 4'31.56"S	21°23'13.85"E
End	29° 9'3.29"S	21°20'18.12"E

- for the proposed 100MW Skeerhok 3 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility on Portion 0 of the Farm Smutshoek No. 395 north-east of the town of Kenhardt within the !Kheis Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The 100MW Skeerhok 3 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility will comprise of the following:

Solar field:

- Maximum 250ha of photovoltaic (PV) modules mounted on free field single-axis trackers or fixed tilt PV solar module mounting structures comprised of galvanised steel and aluminium;
- below ground electrical cables connecting the PV arrays to the inverter stations, O&M building and collector substation;
- Ring main units; and
- Inverters and mini-sub.

Collector substation:

- ≤ 1ha 22/33kV to 132kV collector substation to receive, convert and step up electricity from the PV facility to the 132kV grid suitable supply. The facility will house control rooms and grid control yards for both Eskom and the Independent Power Producer. A 32m telecommunications tower (lattice or monopole type) will be established in the substation area.

O&M area:

- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) buildings;
- ≤ 1ha O&M laydown area (near / adjacent substation);
- ≤ 0.01ha solar measuring station;
- Parking, reception area, offices, guest accommodations and ablution facilities for operational staff, security and visitors;
- Workshops, storage areas for materials and spare parts;
- Water storage tanks or lined ponds (~160kl/day during first 3 months; ~90kl/day for 21 months during rest of construction period; ~20kl/day during operation);
- Septic tanks and sewer lines to service ablution facilities; and

- Central waste collection and storage area.

Battery Storage System:

- 100MWh Battery Storage Facility with a maximum height of 8m and associated operational, safety and control infrastructure.

Access road:

- $\leq 15\text{km}$ long, $\leq 8\text{m}$ wide gravel access road running from the Transnet Service Road to the site.

Service roads:

- $\leq 10\text{km}$ of $\leq 8\text{m}$ wide gravel internal service roads within the plant boundary.

Other infrastructure:

- Perimeter fencing and internal security fencing and gates as required;
- Access control gate and guard house on access road;
- $\leq 3.5\text{km}$ length of water supply pipeline connecting existing boreholes to storage, alternatively water will be supplied by the local municipality; and
- Stormwater drainage.

Construction site office area (used during construction and rehabilitated thereafter):

- $\leq 1\text{ha}$ site office area;
- $\leq 10\text{ha}$ laydown area; and
- $\leq 1\text{ha}$ concrete batching plant.

Technical details for the proposed facility:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	Approximately 70km south of Upington and 43km north-east of Kenhardt in the Northern Cape Province
PV Panel area	Approximately 250ha
SG Codes	C03600000000039500000
Preferred Site access	$\leq 15\text{km}$ long, $\leq 8\text{m}$ wide gravel access road running from the Transnet Service Road to the site
Export capacity	100MW
Proposed technology	Photovoltaic panels
Height of installed panels from ground level	Approximately 5m high
Width and length of internal roads	$\leq 10\text{km}$ of $\leq 8\text{m}$ wide gravel internal service roads within the plant boundary

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The 100MW Skeerhok 3 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility as described above is hereby approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this environmental 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 environmental 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 environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of the environmental authorisation with the competent authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental 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.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

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 14 (fourteen) 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 the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 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.

Commencement of the activity

11. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

12. The Layout Plan on page 124 (Appendix A) of the EMPr and appended with the final EIAr dated March 2018 is approved.
13. The EMPr compiled by the Council for Science and Industrial Research and appended with the final EIAr dated March 2018 is approved. The EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.
14. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
15. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAr be discovered.
16. Furthermore, a shapefile of the approved development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department within two months from the date of the decision. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid.

The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp; .shx; .dbf; .prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avl and/or the .lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title.

The shape file must be submitted to:

Postal Address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria

For Attention: Mr Muhammad Essop
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406
Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

17. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 24 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
18. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.

19. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
20. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
21. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

22. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an 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 environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
 - 22.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 22.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 22.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 22.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

23. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
24. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the

environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.

25. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the approved EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.
26. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
27. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and 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 approved EMPr.
28. 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.

Notification to authorities

29. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. 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.

Operation of the activity

30. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity's operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

31. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must 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

32. Environmental Authorisation is granted on condition that not more than 6 approved facilities in the project area are awarded preferred bidder status by the Department of Energy (DoE).
33. The applicant must submit an Electromagnetic Compatibility Control Plan to the South African Square Kilometer Array prior to any detailed design and construction activities associated with the facility.
34. The archaeological site at SHK2017/004 (GPS Coordinates: S29 02 26.2 E21 24 38.3) as identified by the Heritage Impact Assessment Study must be cordoned off and all access to it prevented.
35. A pre-construction survey of the final development footprint must be conducted by a qualified floral specialist to ascertain the identity and the exact number of individuals of protected species affected by the proposed development. Prior to the commencement of construction, a rescue and rehabilitation operation for these species which could survive translocation must be conducted.
36. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works and operational activities. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
37. Before the clearing of the site, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be kept by the ECO.
38. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants occurring within a ten (10) kilometre radius of the development site must be utilised.
39. Periodical inspection of panels to remove and discourage avifaunal nesting is encouraged. Any nest sites must be removed by a qualified avifaunal specialist.
40. The ECO must ensure that any double fencing associated with the facility allows for free movement of small mammals and avifauna.
41. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities must be removed to a safe location by a qualified person.
42. Watercourses outside the approved footprint/layout must be treated as "no-go" areas and demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into these areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO, except for rehabilitation work in these areas.
43. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, SAHRA must be informed and

the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources to be made.

44. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate.
45. Any solid waste, which will not be recycled, must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008). No waste material may be left on site after construction.
46. The recommendations of the EAP in the final EIAR dated March 2018 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.

General

47. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 47.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 47.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 47.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
48. 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 holder of the authorisation or his/her 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 holder of the authorisation 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: 19/07/2018



Mr Sabelo Malaza

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 listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 19 September 2017.
- b) The information contained in the draft Scoping Report received on 19 September 2017.
- c) The information contained in the final Scoping Report received on 19 October 2017.
- d) The information contained in the draft EIAr received on 14 February 2018.
- e) The information contained in the final EIAr received on 04 April 2018.
- f) The comments received from the South African Heritage Resources Agency; the Tsantsabane Local Municipality; the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation; the South African Civil Aviation Authority; Transnet; Eskom; the South African Square Kilometer Array and the Kai !Garib Local Municipality as included in the EIAr dated March 2018.
- g) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr dated March 2018.
- h) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated March 2018 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Ecology impact assessment (including Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecology)	S Bundy of Sustainable Development Projects	January 2018
Visual impact assessment	L Snyman-Van der Walt of the CSIR, external review by A Gibb of SiVEST	March 2018 and draft reviewed February 2018
Avifaunal impact assessment	J Smallie of Wild Skies Ecological Services	February 2018
Heritage impact assessment	J Orton of ASHA Consulting (Pty) Ltd	January 2018
Desktop palaeontological impact assessment	J Almond of Natura Viva cc	September 2017
Socio-economic impact statement	CSIR and reviewed by R du Toit of Applied Science Associates (Pty) Ltd.	December 2017 and reviewed January 2018

Soils and agriculture impact statement	CSIR and reviewed by J Lanz	December 2017 and reviewed January 2018
Traffic impact statement	CSIR and reviewed by C Bredenhann of WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	December 2017 and reviewed January 2018
SKA RFI Study:	SM Gough of ITC SERVICES (PTY) LTD	November 2017

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 motivation for the need and desirability of the development.
- c) The EIAr dated March 2018 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated March 2018 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, 2014 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 EIAr dated March 2018 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) The information contained in the EIAr dated March 2018 is deemed to be accurate and credible.

- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAR dated March 2018 and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

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