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National Department of Environment Forestry and Fisheries
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
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02 November 2020

Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE 100MW VREDE AND 100MW RONDAWEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS, AS WELL AS ASSOCIATED, ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATIONS, ON VARIOUS SITES NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE

This letter serves as a record and confirmation of appointment of Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd as Environmental Assessment Practitioner for the following projects currently in process on 26 May 2020:

- (1) Proposed construction and operation of the **100MW Vrede Solar Energy Facility** and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), located near Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Fezile Dabi District of the Free State Province, South Africa (DEFF Ref: still to be confirmed).
- (2) Proposed construction and operation of the grid connection infrastructure for the 100MW Vrede Solar Energy Facility and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), located near Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Fezile Dabi District of the Free State Province, South Africa (DEFF Ref: still to be confirmed).
- (3) Proposed construction and operation of the **100MW Rondawel Solar Energy Facility** and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), located near Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Fezile Dabi District of the Free State Province, South Africa (DEFF Ref: still to be confirmed).
- (4) Proposed construction and operation of the grid connection infrastructure for the 100MW Rondawel Solar Energy Facility and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), located near Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality, Fezile Dabi District of the Free State Province, South Africa (DEFF Ref: still to be confirmed).

Importantly, this letter also serves as confirmation of the appointment of the specialist (**Table 1**) for the specialist studies for this application.

Table 1: Specialist appointment for the aforementioned applications

Specialist Name	Specialist Company	Specialist Area of Expertise	Project no. applicable to (refer numbering above)
Gerhard Botha	Nkurenkuru Ecology & Biodiversity	Ecological impact assessment	1,2,3,4.
Gerhard Botha	Nkurenkuru Ecology & Biodiversity	Wetland delineation and impact assessment	1,2,3,4.
Marine Pienaar	TerraAfrica (Pty) Ltd	Soil and agricultural potential assessment	1,2.
Lourens du Plessis	Logis (Pty) Ltd	Visual impact assessment	1,2,3,4.
Lisa Opperman	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Social impact assessment	1,2,3,4.
Jenna Lavin	Cedar Tower Services	Heritage – Archaeological and paleontological impact assessments	1,2,3,4.

This letter is supplied as proof of appointment and commissioning of the above-mentioned specialist studies **prior to the date of publication** of the plant and animal species protocols in the Government Gazette (Government Notice 1150 of 30 October 2020), in fulfilment of the following condition therein:

“The requirement of these protocols will apply from the date of publication, except where the applicant provides proof to the competent authority that the specialist assessment affected by these protocols had been commissioned by the date of publication of these protocols in the Government Gazette, in which case Appendix 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, will apply to such applications.”

Kind regards,

Eugene Marais

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