



environmental affairs

Department
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ms Vici Napier
Strategic Environmental Focus (Pty) Ltd
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0040

Fax No: 012-349-1229

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Napier

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED 30MW MAREETSANE BATHO-BATHO PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON A PORTION OF SETLAGOLI NATIVE RESERVE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated June 2013 and received by the Department on 07 June 2013 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated June 2013 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to North West: Department of Economic Development Environment Conservation and Tourism, Eskom, National and Provincial Department of Water Affairs, WESSA, Department of Agriculture (Provincial and National), South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA), National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA and any other stakeholders which deal with environmental matters within the Province. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIR:

- a) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
- b) The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the power plant and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
- c) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
- d) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the surrounding area.
- e) The EIR should include information on the following:
 - Environmental costs vs benefits of the power facility activity; and
 - Economic viability of the facility to the surrounding area and how the local community will benefit.
- f) Information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained?
- g) A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.
- h) Should blasting be required, appropriate mitigation measures should be provided.
- i) A copy of the **final** site layout plan. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout plan must indicate the following:
 - Solar energy facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Foundation footprint;
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - Construction period laydown footprint;
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material);
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - Environmental sensitive features and buffer areas.
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- j) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- k) A map combining the final layout plan superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in regulation 56(3a-3h).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR illustrate the proposed power plant and associated infrastructure. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are referable to one another;
- Cardinal points;

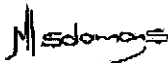
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit two (2) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department and at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

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 sincerely



Mr Mark Gordon

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Milicent Solomons

Designation: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: 28/6/2013

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