

**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0000782/2011

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2600

Enquiries: Jay-Jay Mpelane

Telephone: 012-310-3004 Fax: 012-320-7539 E-mail: jmpelane@environment.gov.za

Mr Dale Holder  
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 2070  
No.5 Progress Street  
GEORGE  
6530

Fax No: 044-874-0432

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

**received**  
24/09/12 20

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 75MW KHOI-SUN PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON A PORTION OF THE FARM 426 SKUITDRIFT WITHIN THE SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated July 2012 and received by the Department on 20 July 2012 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the PoSEIA dated July 2012 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 PoSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010. All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the Draft Scoping Report and submitted as part of the FSR must be taken into consideration when preparing an environmental impact assessment report in respect of the proposed development.

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 the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC), the Department of Water Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the South Africa National Road Agency (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA), the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the South Africa Square Kilometres Array (SKA), the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), Eskom Holdings SOC Limited, the Local Municipality and all relevant stakeholders.

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.

Please be advised that the contact person for renewable projects at the SKA office is Dr Adrian Tiplady and he can be contacted on Tel: 011 442 2434 or E-mail: [atiplady@ska.ac.za](mailto:atiplady@ska.ac.za).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one legible A3 regional map of the area and the site layout map to illustrate the PV positions and associated infrastructure including powerline route alignments. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable 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.

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

1. 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.
2. The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the PV positions, power lines and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
3. Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
4. 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? Proof of these agreements must be provided.
5. A copy of the final site layout map. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
  - PV panels positions and its associated infrastructure;
  - Foundation 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);
  - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. heritage sites that will be affected by the facility and associated infrastructure;
  - Sub-station(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
  - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
  - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
  - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
  - Environmental sensitive features and buffer areas;
  - Buildings, including accommodation; and
  - All "no-go" areas.
6. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.



7. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIR must include the following:

- a) All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIR.
- b) The final site layout map.
- c) Measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting.
- d) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- e) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- f) An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
- g) A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
- h) A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- i) A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- j) A transportation plan for the transport of PV components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment.
- k) A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- l) An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- m) An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- n) Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.

The EIR must include a cumulative assessment of the facility, should there be other similar facilities in the area. The specialist studies e.g. visual must also assess the facility in terms of potential cumulative impacts.

Please ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice activities are applied for, that the Listing Notice activities applied for are specific and that they can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description.

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).

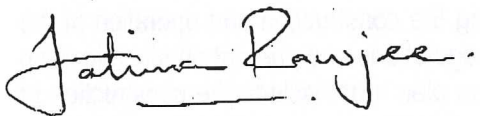
Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for 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 electronic copies (CD/DVD and two (2) hard copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department as per regulation 34(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please also find attached information that must be used in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. This will enable the Department to speedily review the EIR and make a decision on the application.

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 Fatima Rawjee**

**Designation: Acting Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Date: 21/09/2012**

CC:	Wiehann van Zyl	Anjumode (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 086-100-4637	Fax: 086-608-8181
	Agna Yaphi	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Natural Conservation	Tel: 054-332-2885	Fax: 054-331-1155



## **A. EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES**

### **1. General site information**

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- Solar plant design specifications including:
  - Type of technology
  - Structure height
  - Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)
  - Structure orientation
  - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
  - Generation capacity
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

### **2. Site maps and GIS information**

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
  - Current use of land on the site including:
    - Buildings and other structures
    - Agricultural fields
    - Grazing areas
    - Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
    - Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
    - Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
    - Cultural historical sites and elements
  - Rivers, streams and water courses
  - Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
  - Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs

- High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
  - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land
  - 1km from residential areas
- Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
  - Less than 8% slope
  - between 8% and 12% slope
  - between 12% and 14% slope
  - steeper than 18 % slope
- A map/layer that indicate locations of birds and bats including roosting and foraging areas (specialist input required)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
  - Positions of solar facilities
  - 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)
  - River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used
  - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
  - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)
  - Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM)
  - Cut and fill areas along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill
  - Borrow pits
  - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)
  - Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of applications.

### 3. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:
  - roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
  - Railway lines and stations
  - Industrial areas
  - Harbours and airports
  - Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
  - Pipelines

- Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases
- A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
- Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas
- Agricultural fields
- Irrigated areas
- An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams

#### 4. Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Any application, documentation, notification etc. should be forwarded to the following officials:

Ms Mashudu Marubini  
Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970)  
E-mail: [MashuduMa@daff.gov.za](mailto:MashuduMa@daff.gov.za)  
Tel 012- 319 7619

Ms Thoko Buthelezi  
AgriLand Liaison office  
E-mail: [ThokoB@daff.gov.za](mailto:ThokoB@daff.gov.za)  
Tel 012- 319 7634

All hardcopy applications / documentation should be forwarded to the following address:

Physical address:  
Delpen Building  
Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street  
Office 270  
Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

Postal Address:  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Private Bag X120  
Pretoria  
0001  
Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom regarding grid connectivity and capacity. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mr John Geeringh  
Eskom Transmission  
Megawatt Park D1Y38  
PO Box 1091  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000



Tel: 011 516 7233  
Fax: 086 661 4064  
[John.geeringh@eskom.co.za](mailto:John.geeringh@eskom.co.za)

## **B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS**

- Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following:
  - Identification of the soil forms present on site
  - The size of the area where a particular soil form is found
  - GPS readings of soil survey points
  - The depth of the soil at each survey point
  - Soil colour
  - Limiting factors
  - Clay content
  - Slope of the site
  - A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area,
  - Size of the site
- Exact locality of the site
- Current activities on the site, developments, buildings
- Surrounding developments / land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site
- Access routes and the condition thereof
- Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment)
- Possible land use options for the site
- Water availability, source and quality (if available)
- Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice
- Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area
- A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map

## **C. ASTRONOMY GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE ACT, 2007 (ACT NO. 21 OF 2007)**

The purpose of the Act is to preserve the geographic advantage areas that attract investment in astronomy. The entire Northern Cape Province excluding the Sol Plaatjie Municipality had been declared an astronomy advantage area. The Northern Cape optical and radio telescope sites were declared core astronomy advantage areas. The Act allowed for the declaration of the Southern Africa Large Telescope (SALT), MeerKAT and Square Kilometre Array (SKA) as astronomy and related scientific endeavours that had to be protected.

You are requested to indicate the applicability of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, Act No. 21 of 2007 on the application in the BAR/EIR. You must obtain comments from the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) if the proposed development is situated within a declared astronomy advantage area.





## Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd

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1<sup>st</sup> Floor Eagles View Building  
5 Progress Street, George  
PO Box 2070, George 6530

03 September 2012  
KHA135.27

Attention: Mr Jay Jay Mpelane  
Department of Environmental Affairs

Via email: [jmpelane@environment.gov.za](mailto:jmpelane@environment.gov.za)

### **Proposed Khoi Sun solar development: Confirmation of Comments Received during scoping phase of project.**

**DEA ref: 12/12/20/2600**

Our discussion a moment ago refers:

You requested clarity regarding the public participation process, particularly with regard to comment from certain state departments and organs of state.

Your request related to the comments received from the following authorities:

- Department of Water Affairs,
- SANRAL,
- Eskom,
- Department of Agriculture, and
- Civil Aviation Authority;

All these parties were notified during the registration period as well as of the availability of the Draft Scoping Report. For ease of reference, I have attached copies of the letters from these parties to this letter. Furthermore, the following summary is provided

#### **Department of Water Affairs:**

Ms Danita Hone on behalf of the Department of Water Affairs provided comment on 28 June 2012. In summary, this comment required that the applicant will have to undertake a Geohydrological study and pump tests. Furthermore, the applicant was advised to apply for a water use licence. These studies and tests as well as the Water use licence application will only take place after an Environmental Authorisation is received. Please see comment attached to this letter as well as attached in appendix E of the FSR.

#### **SANRAL:**

Ms Rene de Kock on behalf SANRAL provided comment via email on 07 June 2012. In their comment they confirmed that they have no further comment on the project, as a national road will not be affected. Please see comment attached to this letter as well as attached in appendix E of the FSR.

**Eskom:**

Mr John Geeringh provided comment on behalf of Eskom on 13 June 2012. He confirmed that the project will have no direct impact on Eskom transmission infrastructure. He included generic requirements for work near Eskom Infrastructure. These requirements will be included in the Environmental Management Programme which will be submitted along with the Environmental Impact Report. Please see comment attached to this letter as well as attached in appendix E of the FSR.

**Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)**

Mr Chris Isherwood on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) provided comment on 23 May 2012. CAA confirmed that they have no objection to the Project. Please see comment attached to this letter as well as attached in appendix E of the FSR.

**Department of Agriculture**

A number of individuals from the Department of Agriculture were notified of the proposed project as well as given an opportunity to comment of the Draft Scoping Report, Namely:

- Ms Thoko Buthelezi – National Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Agriland Liaison officer;
- F Mokema – Department of Agriculture;
- Ms Jacolene Mans – Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries;
- Ms Cynthia Fortune – Provincial Department of Agriculture; and
- Mr Nico Toerien – Provincial Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development: Sustainable Resource Management.

One comment was received from The Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (Ms Jacoline Mans on 02 August 2012 (This was received after the final Scoping Report was submitted to the Department, and as such will be included in the Draft EIR). During the public participation period of the Draft EIR, we will attempt to solicit comment from the other directorates in both the provincial and national departments of Agriculture. I have however attached a copy of the comment of 02 August 2012 for your records.

I hope the above provides clarity on your request.

Sincerely,

**Dale Holder**  
Cape EAPrac





## Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd

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1<sup>st</sup> Floor Eagles View Building  
5 Progress Street, George  
PO Box 2070, George 6530

24 August 2012  
KHA135/26

**Attention:** Mr Jay-Jay Mpelane  
Department of Environmental Affairs

Via email: [impelane@environment.gov.za](mailto:impelane@environment.gov.za)

### **PROPOSED KHOI SUN DEVELOPMENT ON FARM 426 SKUITDRIFT**

#### **DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2600**

As discussed telephonically herewith please find a description of the sub-listings of the activities applied for regarding the abovementioned project.

As discussed, the findings of the specialist studies and detailed design may require that certain of these activities will no longer be relevant to this application. Details of any exclusions will be reported on in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Also note that where similar activities have different thresholds between the Regulations 544 and 545, both the activities encompassing the full range of thresholds were applied for. Once final capacities etc are determined through the remainder of the process, any activities that are no longer relevant will be excluded and these exclusions will be detailed in the Draft EIR.

The following activities and relevant sub categories have been applied for in this application:

- Regulation 544 activity 1 sub-listing (i) &(ii)
- Regulation 544 activity 10 sub-listing (i)
- Regulation 544 activity 11 sub-listing (xi)
- Regulation 544 activity 18 sub-listing (i)
- Regulation 544 activity 22 sub-listing (i) & (ii)
  
- Regulation 545 activity 1
- Regulation 545 activity 8
- Regulation 545 activity 15
  
- Regulation 546 activity 4 sub-listing (a).ii (gg)
- Regulation 546 activity 14 sub-listing (a) i

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further queries in this regard.

Sincerely,

Dale Holder  
Cape EAPrac

**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**received**  
6 September '12  
Selt.

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NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0000782/2011

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2600

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6530

Fax: 044 874 0432

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**PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Sir/Madam

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF AMENDED APPLICATION FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (SCOPING/EIA PROCESS) FOR THE PROPOSED  
SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT ON FARM 426 SHUITDRIF, UPINGTON, SIYANDA DISTRICT,  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

The Department confirms having received the amended application form for environmental authorisation for the abovementioned project on 22 August 2012.

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 Mmatlala Rabothata

Designation: Environmental Officer: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: 06/09/12.