

Name & Contact	Comment	Response
<p data-bbox="201 613 369 646">Adri La Meyer</p> <p data-bbox="201 688 422 829">WC Environmental Affairs and Development Planning</p> <p data-bbox="201 872 443 938"><a href="mailto:Adri.Lameyer@westerncape.gov.za">Adri.Lameyer@westerncape.gov.za</a></p> <p data-bbox="201 980 443 1013">Email on 27/01/2021</p>	<p data-bbox="478 237 646 269">Dear Hlengile,</p> <p data-bbox="478 311 1161 557">Thank you for your e-mail of 26 January 2021. Per my e-mail of 19 January 2021, please register this Department as a commenting authority for the Part 2 EA amendment application(s). You may exclude all other officials included in this e-mail from future e-mails related to the Part 2 EA amendment application(s) as I am responsible for notifying them of any correspondence received from you.</p> <p data-bbox="478 599 1161 1032">Per the BIDs, the amendment application(s) entails the inclusion of a containerized lithium-ion BESS, gas turbines, and storage of dangerous goods on the Farm Waschklip No. 183, (Soventix SA Saldanha 1) and an exact duplication of the mentioned infrastructure on the Farm Everts Hope No. 190 (Soventix SA Saldanha 2). These additions are all below the thresholds for listed activities in LN 1. Have you however considered the applicability of Activity 10 of LN 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which would require a BA process as opposed to a Part 2 EA amendment application if the dangerous goods would be stored in containers exceeding 30m<sup>3</sup>?</p> <p data-bbox="478 1256 1146 1395">Could you please confirm whether one (combined) or two (separate) Amendment Reports will be released for comment? Also, not being familiar with the history of the solar facility development, is there a combined EA or</p>	<p data-bbox="1192 311 1875 449">We will be sure to send you all relevant documentation for review and comment. All other officials have been excluded and taken off the Interested and Affected Parties List.</p> <p data-bbox="1192 599 1875 1214">Thank you for identifying this possible threshold. We were not entirely sure where the “urban edge” for this area was and have requested the relevant shapefile from the town planner, but in all probability the sites will fall outside urban areas, in which case the on-site storage threshold will have to be reduced to 30m<sup>3</sup>. We will provide feedback to you once we get confirmation on the urban edge from the town planner and if needed will adjust our report narrative accordingly, and submit an amended application form together with the draft and final report to reflect the reduced on-site fuel storage. The reduced fuel storage does not pose a significant constraint on the operation of the site, as the gas turbines are only a backup for use in extreme conditions, and are unlikely to be used on a frequent basis. The close proximity of Saldanha town and relative close proximity of Cape Town, allows for easy access to bulk fuel suppliers and delivery.</p> <p data-bbox="1192 1256 1843 1395">Two reports will be submitted, as there are two environmental authorisations in place, one for each site. Would you like copies of the original EAs and amendments so long for your review and records?</p>

	<p>separate EA issued for the two properties mentioned above?</p> <p>Kindly note that Jenna Lavin, Andrew Hall and Calvin van Wijk are no longer with Heritage Western Cape. All correspondence must be addressed to the CEO of Heritage Western Cape, Colette Scheermeyer and Waseefa Dhansay (copied into this e-mail).</p> <p>Please note that I do not have an official cellular phone, but would welcome any future correspondence regarding this application via e-mail please.</p> <p>Kind regards, Adri</p>	<p>Thank you for directing us to the correct people.</p> <p>We'll be sure to send you all relevant correspondence as a commenting authority.</p>
<p>Russell Sabor</p> <p>GVJ Vredenburg EC &amp; I Contractors (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>russell@gvj.co.za</p> <p>Email on 01/02/2021</p>	<p>Good day Justin</p> <p>DEFF Reference no : 12/12/20/2126 &amp; 12/12/20/2126/1</p> <p>With regards to the above we would like to register as an Interested and Affected Party.</p> <p>GVJ is a locally based company (Vredenburg) and has experience in the gas turbine/LPG/LNG and Solar Photo-Voltaic industries.</p> <p>We completed the Open Cycle Gas Turbines projects in Atlantis and Mossel Bay as well as 2 x Solar PV installations in De Aar and Kimberley.</p> <p>Attached is a copy of our Company Profile with a list of successfully completed projects.</p>	<p>Good morning Russell,</p> <p>Thank you for the registration and company profile. You will be included in the distribution list for the report and outcome of the application.</p> <p>Regards,</p>

	<p>Hope you find our submission in order.</p> <p>Regards, Russell Sabor</p>	
<p>Capt. Lance Tiedt</p> <p><a href="mailto:lance@tiedt.me">lance@tiedt.me</a></p> <p>Email on 01/02/2021</p>	<p>Greetings</p> <p>Could I please be registered as a I&amp;AP with respect to this project.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	<p>Good afternoon Captain Lance,</p> <p>Thank you for your email below, you will be added to the I&amp;AP register list.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
<p>Doretha Kotze</p> <p>West Coast District Municipality</p> <p><a href="mailto:dkotze@wcdm.co.za">dkotze@wcdm.co.za</a></p> <p>Email on 19/02/2021</p>	<p>Sir/Madam</p> <p>I refer to your notification and the BIDs for the Part 2 Amendment applications dated 26 January 2021.</p> <p>Kindly register the West Coast District Municipality as a I &amp; AP for the proposal.</p>	<p>West Coast District Municipality will be registered as an I &amp; AP</p>
<p>Mr Jaco Kotze (Langebaan Ratepayers)</p> <p>082 889 0685</p> <p><a href="mailto:jacokotzelangebaan@gmail.com">jacokotzelangebaan@gmail.com</a></p> <p>Phone call on 24/02/2021</p>	<p>Mr Kotze has negative feelings about the project and says that it should not be allowed.</p>	<p>Mr Kotze was asked to fill in the registration form and write down his concerns.</p>
<p>Ismat Adams</p> <p>Cape Nature</p>	<p>Good day Hlengile</p>	<p>Hlengile Emailed the EA (12/12/20/2126/1) and forwarded the Final EIR via a link on 05 March 2021.</p>

<p><a href="mailto:iadams@capenature.co.za">iadams@capenature.co.za</a></p> <p>Email on 03/03/2021, followed by a phone call on the same day.</p>	<p>Please could you send on the EA 12/12/20/2126/1 and the related EIA documents.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>	
<p>Keith Harrison, Conservation (West Coast Bird Club).</p> <p>Email. keithhbharrison@lando.co.za 7380</p> <p>Email on 09/03/2021</p>	<p>Dear Hlengile, I apologise for this late comment which is due to Covid -19 delays.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please register the West Coast Bird Club as an IAP to the project.</li> </ol> <p>Contact details:- Keith Harrison – Conservation, West Coast Bird Club, P.O. Box 538, Vredenburg, 7380. Tel, 022 – 713 3026, Email <a href="mailto:keithhbharrison@lando.co.za">keithhbharrison@lando.co.za</a></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The West Coast Bird Club supports the project. However as there will be a lot of new infrastructure in a pristine area, example the battery storage equivalent to 22 containers (40 foot) and 5 gas turbines, there will be bird collisions and environmental mitigation measures will be necessary.</li> <li>3. Birds, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All cables to be buried where possible.</li> <li>• All external lighting to be motion activated, yellow LED with beam directed downwards so as not to attract night flying insects and night feeding bird species.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thank you for the registration, you have been added to the I&amp;AP Register.</li> <li>2. An Avifauna Management Plan has been included as Appendix 5 to the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) specifically to address the avifauna risks.</li> <li>3. Recommendations have been included in the EMPr for implementation accordingly.</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buildings to be painted red or yellow because birds see these colours better than black and white.</li> <li>• Glass windows should be 'frosted' or shuttered so that birds cannot see through or reflections of themselves.</li> </ul> <p>4. Vegetation,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If vegetation which requires conservation is to be destroyed, it will be necessary to conserve a similar sized area at the expense of the developer as an offset. A search and rescue programme will be necessary as this is a 'flower area'.</li> <li>• <i>Echium plantigeum</i> is now an invasive alien pest on the West Coast and the ECO of the project must be trained to identify and remove plants immediately from the site.</li> <li>• All vehicles coming onto the site with gravel, sand or soil must be registered by the ECO as originating from an Echium free source.</li> <li>• If labour is required for alien species control, there are teams trained by local NGOs, for example Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve Co. No material to be held upon the site because seed bearing plants will increase the Seed Bank.</li> </ul>	<p>4. Practicable recommendations have been included in the EMPr for implementation accordingly. The matter of ecological offsets, should have been addressed during the original EIA if deemed necessary, and cannot be included in the scope of an amendment whose activities take place on the approved footprint.</p> <p>Removing seed from the footprint is in contravention of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (Act 43 of 1983) and needs to be effectively managed on site.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any reseeded operations must use seeds recorded as originating from the Western Cape.</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Fences on a large area, boundary fences should have special engineered gaps to allow continued entry by large mammals, if mesh fencing is used, specific points should be raised off the ground to allow small mammals and reptiles access. Where electric fencing is used the lowest live wire should be a minimum of 35cms off the ground to protect tortoises who freeze on contact and become electrocuted.</li> <li>6. Labour, semi-skilled and unskilled labour could be recruited from Green Village and Hopefield, and have 5 years proven residence or are on the voters roll.</li> <li>7. Vehicles of developer, contractors and subcontractors should be registered with the Saldanha Bay Municipality Traffic Departments so that portions of the fees can be used for road infrastructure maintenance.</li> <li>8. Animal Control, Feral Cats are attracted to large projects and are worldwide killers of birds, the ECO must have a policy for their control.</li> <li>9. Poaching, a recent activity is gambling syndicates hunting large mammals with packs of dogs on the West Coast. These groups should not be approached which is dangerous, the ECO should</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Practicable recommendations have been included in the EMPr for implementation accordingly. While providing “soft” boundaries to allow for unimpeded animal movement is a sound ecological principle, it jeopardises the integrity of the security and safety of the site and associated infrastructure and cannot be implemented.</li> <li>6. Thank you for the recommendation and while local residents will be prioritised the source of labour, especially skilled and semi-skilled labour will depend largely on the source of the contractors.</li> <li>7. Thank you for the suggestion which has been included in the EMPr for implementation.</li> <li>8. The suggestion has been included in the EMPr for implementation accordingly.</li> <li>9. The advice is appreciated and has been included in the EMPr for implementation accordingly.</li> </ol>
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	<p>develop a strategy with the CapeNature office at Porterville.</p> <p>Sincerely, Keith Harrison. (Sent by Email 9.3.21)</p>	
<p>Adri La Meyer</p> <p>WC Environmental Affairs and Development Planning</p> <p><a href="mailto:Adri.Lameyer@westerncape.gov.za">Adri.Lameyer@westerncape.gov.za</a></p> <p>Email on 09/03/2021</p>	<p>Hi Hlengile,</p> <p>Thank you for the e-mail notification. I have downloaded the reports, many thanks for that. I do however note that the original and amended EAs were not included as an annexure, which may be problematic for the commenting directorates. I'm not sure if they are included in the Main Report? Would you be able to e-mail the EAs to me please?</p> <p>Kind regards, Adri</p>	<p>A link was sent on 10/03/2021 and EAs added to the report folder on the website.</p>
<p>Lizell Stroh (Obstacle Inspector) – CAA - <a href="mailto:StrohL@caa.co.za">StrohL@caa.co.za</a></p> <p>Email on 10/03/2021.</p>	<p>Good day, please find procedure and processes to follow for this Authority's Comments/approval.</p> <p>Good day, please follow the SACAA application process as per the SACAA website.</p> <p><a href="http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Default.aspx">http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Default.aspx</a> <a href="http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Obstacles/Urgent-notices.aspx">http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Obstacles/Urgent-notices.aspx</a> Obstacle Notice 4/2020 Amending Obstacle Information</p> <p>Kindly note that with immediate effect, assessments will be conducted on the obstacle information as it stands in the application as provided to the Obstacle Inspectorate.</p>	<p>Email from CAA on 18/03/2021, following reminder of the outcome of the initial application from 2011:</p> <p>Good day Hlengile. if all new structures proposed, falls below the approved HGT, no new approval would be required as the new structures would be below and shielded by the HGT already approved.</p>

	<p>Should applicants wish to amend the information in an application, applicants will be required to resubmit a new application which will be subject to the fees as published in Part 187.</p> <p>Please also note that obstacle assessments will be conducted on obstacles applications only after payment in full has been received and confirmed by our finance office.</p> <p><a href="http://www.caa.co.za/Obstacles%20Forms/CA139-27.pdf">http://www.caa.co.za/Obstacles%20Forms/CA139-27.pdf</a></p> <p>kind regards</p>	
<p>Azrah Essop</p> <p>DEFF</p> <p><a href="mailto:AEssop@environment.gov.za">AEssop@environment.gov.za</a></p> <p>Email on 07/04/2021</p>	<p><b>(a) Specific Comments:</b></p> <p>(i) Clarity is required as to the number of generators or GenSets to be installed for the proposed development. Page 41 of the report states that: "A total of nine (9) generator sets will be installed, each with a rated power output of 1 000 kW", while both the application form (section 6) and the report on age iv, 53 and 79 state: "Additionally, five (5) gas turbine units will be required to generate &lt;10MW of backup electricity".</p> <p>(ii) The application form must be updated to include and describe the detailed amendments that are being applied for. When doing so, please quote the page number of the EA, the condition/section affected, the existing information (if necessary) and what is the required amendment/inclusion. For e.g Page 3 of the EA, point 6 of the Specific Conditions stated as: 6. The 100m buffer from the road shall be</p>	<p><b>(a) Specific Comments:</b></p> <p>(i) The proposed development is for an addition of infrastructure to a Solar PV that will have a total of nine (9) 1kW generators. Originally it was foreseen that 5 gas turbines would be used, but additional feasibility studies have shown that dual-fuel generators will be used whose collective generation capacity will be &lt;10MW.</p> <p>(ii) The application form already includes the details of the amendments which is constrained to only 3 sets of infrastructure namely;</p> <p>(a) Containerised Lithium-Ion Batteries;</p> <p>(b) Containerized backup dual-fuel generators; and</p> <p>(c) Above-ground storage of fuel for the operation of the generators consisting of diesel and/or</p>

	<p>maintained. Is requested to be amended to: 6. The 150m buffer from the road and nearby dam shall be maintained.</p> <p>(iii) The EAP is to ensure that all the amendments applied for do not trigger any new listed or specified activity as outlined in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Ensure that there is clear motivation to the proposed amendments occurring within the approved footprint of the existing authorisation (can be supported with a layout map).</p> <p>(iv) Please provide more information on the battery energy storage system (BESS) i.e. footprint, types of batteries, method of filling/refilling.</p> <p><b>(b) Public Participation:</b></p> <p>(i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final report.</p> <p>(ii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final report. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all comments for this application in chronological order. The C&amp;R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. All comments submitted must be attached to the report. Please note that</p>	<p>LNG with a combined storage capacity of &lt;30m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>A part 1 amendment has already been approved for the project to update relevant project details, but an appendix to the application has been included for the specific infrastructure amendments.</p> <p>(iii) The amendments applied for do not trigger any new listed or specified activity as outlined in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Please refer to the Layout &amp; Sensitivity Maps in Figures 1 &amp; 2 of the Final “Motivation” Report.</p> <p>(iv) Refer to the RMIPPP SMA &amp; Sunbelt Energy Brochure in Appendix F.</p> <p><b>(b) Public Participation:</b></p> <p>(i) Comments from all relevant stakeholders will be submitted to the Department with the final report.</p> <p>(ii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&amp;R) will be submitted with the final report, in the format indicated in Appendix 1 of the comments letter received from DEFF on 07/04/2021, with no “noted” as a response. Please refer to Appendix G, Annexure 1 of the final report for the C&amp;R.</p>
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	<p>a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&amp;AP's comments.</p> <p>(iii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft report from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final report. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended.</p> <p>(iv) The final report must also indicate that this draft report has been subjected to a public participation process.</p> <p><b>(c) Layout and Sensitivity Maps:</b></p> <p>(i) A copy of the layout map must be submitted with the final report. 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 of the proposed amendment must indicate the following:</p> <p>(a) The location of the BESS and GenSets and approved infrastructure</p> <p>(b) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed)</p> <p>(c) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;</p> <p>(d) Buffer areas; and</p>	<p>(iii) The Public Participation Process was conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014 as amended. All issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the draft report from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity were adequately addressed for the final report. Refer to Annexure J of the PPP Section for proof of attempts to obtain comments.</p> <p>(iv) The final report will indicate that the draft report was subjected to the approved public participation process.</p> <p><b>(c) Layout and Sensitivity Maps:</b></p> <p>(i) Refer to Figures 1 &amp; 2 in "Motivation" Report.</p>
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	<p>(e) All "no-go" areas</p> <p>(f) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p> <p>(ii) Google map will not be accepted.</p> <p><b>(d) Specialist Assessments:</b></p> <p>(i) It is noted that all specialists involved in the baseline EIA, have signed a declaration indicating whether the scope of the amendments requires additional inputs from their discipline. None of these specialists had recommended further mitigations.</p> <p>(ii) All recommendations from the specialists, must be considered.</p> <p>(iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons, and where necessary, include further expert advice.</p> <p><b>(e) General:</b></p> <p>(i) It is noted that the proposed amendment is required in line with the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP) and the risk mitigation IPP procurement programme and Bid Window 5 which has additional requirements in terms of generation assurance that necessitates the inclusion of battery storage and gas turbine generation assurance that necessitates the inclusion of battery storage and gas turbine generation</p>	<p>(ii) A Google Map will not be submitted.</p> <p><b>(d) Specialist Assessments:</b></p> <p>(i) Thank you for noting.</p> <p>(ii) The recommendations and findings included in the GHG specialist report have been considered in the report.</p> <p>(iii) The appointed specialists did not have contradicting recommendations.</p> <p><b>(e) General:</b></p> <p>(i) Thank you for noting.</p>
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	<p>(and associated fuel storage) to ensure the facility can meet its generation mandate irrespective of prevailing weather conditions.</p> <p>(ii) The generators can provide &lt;10MW to augment the power supply when PV generation is diminished, and battery banks are depleted. The additional infrastructure of the containerised batteries and gas turbines will only occupy a nominal footprint (&lt;700m<sup>2</sup>) in relation to the full development.</p> <p>(iii) An additional specialist study was undertaken on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to inter alia quantify the CO<sub>2</sub>e savings the solar PV facility will provide in comparison to Fossil Fuel (FF) generation as well as the additional GHGs that will result from the operation of the Gas Turbines.</p> <p>"You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 32(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 90 days of receipt by the competent authority of the application made in terms of regulation 31, submit to the competent authority -</p> <p>(a) a report, reflecting –</p> <p>(i) an assessment of all impacts related to the proposed change;</p> <p>(ii) advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed change; and</p> <p>(iii) measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with such proposed change; and</p>	<p>(ii) Correct.</p> <p>(iii) a report, which (aa) had been subjected to a public participation process, which had been agreed to by the competent authority, and which was appropriate to bring the proposed change to the attention of potential and registered interested and affected parties, including organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity, and the competent authority, and (bb) reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority, reflecting –</p> <p>(i) an assessment of all impacts related to the proposed change;</p> <p>(ii) advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed change; and</p> <p>(iii) measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with such proposed change and (iv) any changes to the EMP; will be submitted to DEFF within 90 days of receipt of the application.</p>
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	<p>(iv) any changes to the EMPr; which report -  (aa) had been subjected to a public participation process, which had been agreed to by the competent authority, and which was appropriate to bring the proposed change to the attention of potential and registered interested and affected parties, including organs of state, which have jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the relevant activity, and the competent authority, and  (bb) reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority.</p> <p>Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the motivation report or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 32(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: " the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority - (b) a notification in writing that the report will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the report, which changes or information was or contained in the report consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in sub regulation (1)(a) and that the revised report will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days". In the event where sub regulation (1)(b) applies, the report which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority, must be</p>	<p>(iv) The EMPr has been updated.</p> <p>Changes have been made to the draft report and captured in the Final "Motivation" Report, emanating from comments for the I&amp;APs. The EMPr has also been updated from the draft version that was submitting for the 30-day comment period. An email was sent to the relevant case officer enquiring as to whether or not any of these changes constitute a "significant" change, which was confirmed so by the Competent Authority necessitating an additional 30-day comment period on the "final" motivation report.</p>
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	<p>submitted to the competent authority within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority.</p> <p>Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 32 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>A notification was submitted to the CA to exercise the provided extension of time in the Regulations to allow for the additional 30-day comment period on the Final Report.</p> <p>No activities considering within the scope of the Part 2 amendment will be commenced with prior to the EA amendment being granted by DEFF.</p>
<p>Terrence Wilson</p> <p>Arcelormittal</p> <p><a href="mailto:terrence.wilson@arcelormittal.com">terrence.wilson@arcelormittal.com</a></p> <p>Email on 07/04/2021</p>	<p>Hi Hlengile,</p> <p>Thanks for the information regarding the proposed projects. Please could you consider/address the following aspects pertinent to both projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular inspections of any dangerous goods storage facilities (e.g. chemical, lubricant, coolant, diesel) should form part of the routine inspections conducted by the ECO during the operational phase of the project.</li> <li>• Consideration of measures to mitigate the potential fire risk associated with Lithium-ion battery storage on site</li> <li>• The amended EMPr alludes to the safe disposal of spent batteries. By August 2021, there is a waste disposal prohibition for batteries which comes into</li> </ul>	<p>Table 24 &amp; 26 of the Report deals with the impacts and mitigations of dangerous goods handling. The EMPr already deals with this under the Socio-economic aspect of the operational phase. The inspections will not be undertaken by the ECO as his/her appointment typically ends on the conclusion of construction. Operational oversight will be undertaken by a SHEQ officer and/or Independent Compliance Auditors.</p> <p>Consideration of mitigation measures of the potential fire risk associated with Lithium-ion battery storage on site have been included in the EMPr.</p> <p>Table 24 of the Report talks about battery management and states that the battery span is 20years. The applicant must comply with all regulatory requirements governing</p>

	<p>effect. What are the recycling options which have been considered for depleted/malfunctioning batteries as an alternative to disposal thereof?</p> <p>Regards,</p>	<p>the storage, transport and disposal of batteries which are currently considered hazardous waste and must be disposed of accordingly. Additionally, where an industry battery management best practice is in place, the associated initiatives and practices must be followed and implemented.</p>
<p>Ismat Adams Cape Nature <a href="mailto:iadams@capenature.co.za">iadams@capenature.co.za</a> Email on 12/04/2021</p>	<p>CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this application. Our comments are as follows:</p> <p>1. Given that the proposed development will affect CBA and ESA areas within the development footprint, it is advised that a terrestrial ecology assessment on flora, fauna and vegetation be undertaken to determine the impact of the development on these sensitive areas. This should include the identification of any species of conservation concern and provide appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures based on the findings of the assessment. It is noted as per page 30 of the report, “assumptions and limitations”, that specialists that conducted assessments during the baseline EIA have declared that no further assessment is necessary. However, given that the initial EIA was conducted more than eight years ago, it is advisable to conduct a further terrestrial ecology assessment of the site as the ecological state of the site could have changed in this time especially regarding species of conservation concern. If electricity generated is to be evacuated from the facility via powerlines, then it is advised that an avian impact assessment be conducted.</p> <p>2. Note that the vegetation threat status of Saldanha Flats Strandveld has changed from vulnerable to endangered since the initial EIA was conducted as per the Vegetation</p>	<p>Thank you for the comments, they are duly noted.</p> <p>1. Please note that the approval of this application will not increase the development footprint and associated impacts considered in the original EIA including <i>inter alia</i> vegetation clearance. The additional infrastructure will be on the already approved and authorised footprint, not affecting any new areas that were not assessed initially. During the initial EIA both terrestrial ecology and avifauna impacts were assessed by specialists and mitigated in the EMPr. As per comments received from the West Coast Bird Club, we have augmented the EMPr with an Avifauna Management Plan (Appendix 5 of the EMPr).</p> <p>2. Measures to reduce and minimise vegetation clearance are included and have been bolstered in the EMPr.</p>

	<p>Map of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland (2018 version). This would need to be considered in further environmental assessment of the site.</p> <p>3. The Western Cape Provincial Biodiversity Spatial Plan 2017, should inform the impact ratings.</p> <p>4. It is noted that the development footprint does not appear to be in the Besaansklip Industrial Area.</p> <p>5. A cumulative impact assessment for the development should be done, as development within the Saldanha area has increased since the initial baseline EIA was conducted.</p> <p>6. Give an indication on a map of the extent of the development footprint that has been approved and for which there is a valid EA, and the proposed extent of the expansion of the development footprint.</p> <p>7. Ensure that relevant informants such as <i>Ecosystem Guidelines for Environmental Assessment in the Western Cape</i> (De Villiers <i>et. al.</i>, 2016), are considered when formulating the EMPr.</p>	<p>3. Ecoleges utilise an impact assessment process in accordance with the Regulations and relevant guidelines.</p> <p>4. Correct.</p> <p>5. No cumulative impacts associated with the scope of the amendment activities were determined, as the development footprint will not change in any way, the additional infrastructure will be on the already authorised footprint. The containerised batteries and generators have been assessed to have very low additional impacts. Additionally, it must be recognised that the additional infrastructure applied for in this amendment are peculiar to the RMIPPP and subsequent IPP rounds may not include these additional infrastructure requirements in which case they will not be implemented.</p> <p>6. Not Applicable. Please refer to the Layout &amp; Sensitivity Map in Figures 1 &amp; 2 of the Final "Motivation" Report.</p> <p>7. The EMPr for this project is a pre-existing and approved document, and the Part 2 amendment process only makes recommendations to the EMPr content confined to the scope of the activities included in the amendment application.</p>
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	CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.	
<p>Doretha Kotze</p> <p>West Coast District Municipality</p> <p><a href="mailto:dkotze@wcdm.co.za">dkotze@wcdm.co.za</a></p> <p>Email on 12/04/2021</p>	<p>Sir</p> <p>I refer to your email of 9 March 2021 and the Part 2 Amendment Application to the Environmental Authorisations for the Soventix Solar Energy Facility on Farms 183 and 190, Division Malmsbury, Saldanha Bay Municipality.</p> <p>Even though Environmental Authorisation has been obtained for the Soventix SEF, the West Coast District Municipality has serious concerns about the development. See extract (in green) of the WCDM's comment on the Draft Scoping Report (letter dated 10 November 2011) for the initial proposal encompassing Farms 183, 190, 194 and portions of Farm 195.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Saldanha Bay area, particularly the area around the harbour, has been earmarked for industrial purposes. Renewable energy projects will provide important supporting infrastructure to supply much needed electricity to current and future industries. The West Coast District Municipality (WCDM) supports renewable energy developments, provided it is appropriately located, not only in terms of renewable resources, biodiversity and compatibility with surrounding land uses, but also in terms of the impact on tourism resources in an area.</li> <li>2. The West Coast District Municipality does not support the proposed facility in this specific location. The proposed development will be situated at the 'main</li> </ol>	<p>Email on 13/04/2021</p> <p>Good morning Doretha, thank you for the comments, which are duly noted, and it is unfortunate that the footprint could not be relocated to a more suitable location at the time of the original EIA, for which we unfortunately do not have extensive context or experience, as this process was undertaken by another consulting company. However, site selection can be difficult at times, as not all land owners are willing or interested in allowing development on their land.</p> <p>We have engaged with the National Department of Environment, Forestry &amp; Fisheries (DEFF): Air Quality Directorate throughout the process and based on the combined backup generator output, an Air Emissions License (AEL) is not required. The most recent communication received from the Department will however, require further engagement with them in the future.</p> <p>The implementation of the containerised batteries and backup generator (with associated fuel storage) was a requirement of the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producers Programme (RMIPPP) and has not, nor is likely to be a requirement for future BID rounds, yet the developer had to apply for amendment to their Environmental Authorisation (EA) to ensure eligibility for the RMIPPP round. An appointed Town &amp; Regional Planner, Jan Truter from South Consulting , has been</p>

	<p>entrance' (R27) to Langebaan, considered an important tourist destination on the West Coast. The highly visible structures of a photovoltaic facility will have a negative impact on the character, sense of place and consequently, the tourism potential of Langebaan and the West Coast National Park. The WCDM is of the opinion that these facilities should be located closer to the proposed industrial area which, to some extent, already has an industrial character.</p> <p>3. According to Cape Nature's Critical Biodiversity Map for the area, portions of the proposed site are considered CBA's. Although this is refuted by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, care should be taken to conserve biodiversity.</p> <p>The following comments are provided on the Part 2 Amendment Application:</p> <p>All legislative and regulatory requirements must be met, including-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The requisite Air Emissions License and</li> <li>b. Approval from the Saldanha Bay Municipality in terms of the Saldanha Bay Municipal Bylaw on Land Use Planning.</li> </ul> <p>Regards</p>	<p>dealing with the various town planning matters, and the current situation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The application will be processed further in terms of ORDINANCE No 25 of 1985, as if still effective;</li> <li>•That the decision making structures will be within SALDANHA BAY MUNICIPALITY's Mayoral Committee Structure and appeals handled accordingly under the Systems Act.</li> </ul> <p>Soventix SA will keep the application as is in 2012 for now and will address any reductions to the total project footprint as proposals for development impact mitigation in response to comments, inputs and objections to the proposal.</p>
<p>Gerhard Gerber WC Environmental Affairs and</p>	<p>Please find collated comments from various directorates in the Department on the Draft Amendment Application Motivation Report (hereinafter referred to as "the Report") dated 09 March 2021 that was downloaded from the</p>	

<p>Development Planning</p> <p><a href="mailto:Gerhard.Gerber@westerncape.gov.za">Gerhard.Gerber@westerncape.gov.za</a></p>	<p>website provided by the environmental assessment practitioner.</p> <p>1. Directorate: Development Management (Region 1) – Mr Bernard Kgosana (Bernard.Kgosana@westerncape.gov.za):</p> <p>1.1. The following is understood:</p> <p>1.1.1. On 25 January 2013, the then Department of Environmental Affairs (“DEA”) granted an EA for the development of a 75-Megawatt (“MW”) commercial solar photovoltaic (“PV”) electricity generation facility on the Farm Waschklip No. 183, near Langebaan (reference 12/12/20/2126).</p> <p>1.1.2. On 21 October 2013, the then DEA granted an amendment to the EA, amending a description of a listed activity (DEA reference 12/12/20/2126/AM1).</p> <p>1.1.3. On 11 November 2015, the then DEA granted an amendment to the EA, extending the validity period of the EA (DEA reference 12/12/20/2126/AM2).</p> <p>1.1.4. On 18 January 2018, the then DEA granted an amendment to the EA, further extending the validity period of the EA (DEA reference 12/12/20/2126/AM3).</p> <p>1.1.5. On 27 January 2020, the then DEA granted an amendment to the EA, further extending the validity period of the EA (DEA reference 12/12/20/2126/AM4).</p> <p>1.1.6. On 03 December 2020, the then Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (“DEFF”) granted an amendment to the EA, correcting GPS middle point coordinates, amending the address of the applicant, and amending the project description, including an amendment</p>	<p>1.1 Your summation is correct with a few adjustments listed below.</p>
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	<p>to the capacity of the solar PV facility from 75MW to 100MW (DEFF reference 12/12/20/2126/AM5).</p> <p>1.2. The applicant is now applying for a Part 2 amendment of the EA. The proposed amendments entail:</p> <p>1.2.1. The inclusion of battery energy storage system (“BESS”) and gas turbine generation and associated fuel storage that are needed to ensure that the solar PV facility can meet its generation mandate.</p> <p>1.2.2. An 167MWh Lithium-Ion battery storage is required, equating to 22 x 40-foot containers. Each shipping container will have a dimension of 12.2(l) x 2.43(w) x 2.59(h), resulting in a total footprint of approximately 667m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>1.2.3. Additionally, five gas turbine units will be required to generate &lt;10MW of backup electricity. Each turbine unit will take up the footprint of a 40-foot container.</p> <p>1.2.4. Aboveground diesel storage of less than 30m<sup>3</sup> will be required to provide the gas turbines with fuel. The additional infrastructure of the containerised batteries and gas turbines will only occupy a nominal footprint (&lt;700m<sup>2</sup>) in relation to the entire development footprint.</p> <p>1.3. The following comment on the Report is offered:</p> <p>1.3.1. This Directorate notes that a Screening Tool Report has not been included in the Report. Please note that a Screening Tool Report is required as part of an application for a Part 2 amendment.</p>	<p>1.2 Correct</p> <p>1.2.1. Gas turbines have now been amended to dual-fuel generators (diesel and/or LNG).</p> <p>1.2.3. Additional feasibility studies have shown that nine (9) 1kW dual-fuel generators are better suited which collectively will generate &lt;10MW of backup electricity.</p> <p>1.2.4. Above-ground storage may include both diesel and LNG, with a collective storage capacity of &lt;30m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>1.3.1. The EAP disagrees with this statement. Government Notice No. 960 of 5 July 2019 &amp; Regulation 16(1)(v) of the EIA Regulations (2014) as amended, only requires a screening report when submitting an application for environmental authorisation in terms of regulation 19</p>
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	<p>1.3.2. This Directorate further notes that a site sensitivity verification report has not been included in the Report. A site sensitivity verification report must therefore be provided in accordance with the <i>Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Section 24(5) (a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation</i> (“the Protocols”) that have been published in the Government Gazette<sup>1</sup>. It is advised that the Report be revised to include the outstanding information and that a Revised Draft Report be made available for an additional commenting period of a minimum of 30 days.</p> <p>1.3.3. The similarly listed activities in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be included in the Amendment Application Motivation Report.</p> <p>1.3.4. Proof of the public participation process conducted must be included in the Final Amendment Application Motivation Report to be submitted to the competent authority.</p> <p>2. Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management – Mr Gunther Frantz (Gunther.Frantz@westerncape.gov.za):  2.1. As per the management measures stated in the Draft Amended Environmental Management Programme (“EMPr”) dated March 2021, it is essential that the</p>	<p>and regulation 21 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended.</p> <p>1.3.2. The site sensitivity verification (SSV) report is only required when undertaking specialist studies for identified themes originating from the Screening Report. As no specialist studies (except for a GHG study) have been undertaken there is no requirement for a SSV. This Part 2 amendment application must not be confused with a new application for environmental authorisation where additional Listed Activities are relevant.</p> <p>1.3.3. The scope of the amendment does not constitute a Phased Activity nor are additional Listed Activities being applied for hence, the authorised activities pertain to the prevailing legislation at the time of the original application.</p> <p>1.3.4. Proof of the public participation process conducted will be included in the Final Amendment Application Motivation Report, with relevant additional information to that included in the Draft Amendment Application Motivation Report.</p> <p>2.1. The condition is included in the revised EMPr and is thus binding on the holder of the authorisation.</p>
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	<p>aboveground storage of diesel is housed within a suitably constructed bund that can hold 110% of the maximum allowable volume, which should be covered, if possible, with a roof to minimise rainwater ingress.</p> <p>2.2. The following general recommendations are provided to prevent and manage potential contamination of water resources, including groundwater, emanating from the site during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases, through the inclusion of the proposed BESS:</p> <p>2.2.1. Compilation and adherence to a procedure for the safe handling of battery cells;</p> <p>2.2.2. Lithium-ion batteries must have battery management systems (containment, automatic alarms and shut-off systems) to monitor and protect cells from overcharging or damaging conditions, such as temperature extremes;</p> <p>2.2.3. Compilation of an Emergency Response Plan for implementation in the event of a spill or leakage;</p> <p>2.2.4. Provision of spill kits on-site for clean-up of spills and leaks;</p> <p>2.2.5. Immediate clean-up of spills and disposal of contaminated absorbents and materials or soil at a licensed hazardous waste disposal facility;</p> <p>2.2.6. Recording and reporting of all significant fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid or electrolyte spills or leaks so that appropriate clean-up measures can be implemented. A copy of these records must be made available to authorities on request throughout the project lifecycle;</p>	<p>2.2. Thank you for valuable inputs.</p> <p>2.2.1. Recommendation included with item 2.2.2 into EMPr.</p> <p>2.2.2. Recommendation included in EMPr.</p> <p>2.2.3 Section 6.4.2 “Record-Keeping” recognises the need for the compilation of Emergency Response Plan which would be a collective of Environmental and Health &amp; Safety competencies.</p> <p>Conditions 2.2.4 to 2.2.11 included in the EMPr in similar context and wording.</p>
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	<p>2.2.7. Frequent and appropriate disposal of both general and hazardous waste to prevent pollution of soil and groundwater;</p> <p>2.2.8. Installation of leak detection monitoring systems, where possible;</p> <p>2.2.9. On-site battery maintenance should only be undertaken on impermeable surfaces with secondary containment measures. Any resulting hazardous substances must be disposed of appropriately;</p> <p>2.2.10. All storm water runoff must be controlled to ensure that on-site activities do not culminate in possible off-site pollution; and</p> <p>2.2.11. Provision of suitable emergency and safety signage on site, and demarcation of any areas which may pose a safety risk (including hazardous substances). Emergency numbers for the local police, fire department, Eskom and the local municipality must be placed in a prominent clearly visible area on-site.</p> <p>2.3. Both the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and this Directorate are to be duly notified immediately of any incident in terms of section 30 of the NEMA (page 12 of the EMPr). The EMPr should be amended to specifically include reference to section 30 of the NEMA, pertaining to the control of incidents.</p> <p>3. Directorate: Development Facilitation – Mr Ryan Apolles (<a href="mailto:Ryan.Apolles@westerncape.gov.za">Ryan.Apolles@westerncape.gov.za</a>):</p> <p>3.1. Please provide more information to illustrate the difference between the proposed generator sets and the</p>	<p>2.3. Recommendation included in the EMPr as a responsibility of the Contractor.</p> <p>3.1 Included as Appendix E.</p>
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	<p>gas turbine units. A process flow diagram in this regard would also be appreciated.</p> <p>3.1.1. The Report states that the diesel generators sets will be a supplementary power source to the PV facility and battery backup. The Report further states that skid-mounted generator units will be located alongside the project substation and that a total of nine generator sets will be installed, each with a rated power output of 1 000kW. Based on the information provided in the Report, it appears that the generator sets will supplement the power requirement as backup during the 15-day project reliability run only, with limited fuel consumed during operation.</p> <p>3.1.2. It is noted that five gas turbine units will be required to generate &lt;10MW of backup electricity and that less than 30m<sup>3</sup> of aboveground diesel storage will be required to provide the turbines with fuel.</p> <p>3.1.3. Ideally, a site layout plan to indicate the location of the proposed BESS, generator sets and gas turbine units in relation to the layout of the approved solar PV facility and associated infrastructure should have been provided.</p> <p>3.2. Please note that correct e-mail address for Mr Jandre Bakker at the Department of Transport and Public Works is Jandre.Bakker@westerncape.gov.za.</p> <p>4. Directorate: Waste Management - Mr Etienne Roux (Etienne.Roux@westerncape.gov.za):</p> <p>4.1. Kindly note that should more than 100m<sup>3</sup> of general waste, or more than 80m<sup>3</sup> of hazardous waste be stored at the solar PV facility for a period exceeding 90 days, the facility will need to register in terms of, and adhere to, the National Norms and Standards for the Storage of Waste</p>	<p>3.1.1. The generators will be run &amp; tested during the project reliability phase and there use thereafter will be dependent on climatic &amp; contractual influences with the degree of use uncertain but likely to be negligible. The GHG study identifies the probability of use based on climatic influences.</p> <p>3.1.2. Correct.</p> <p>3.1.3. The location of the BESS and GENSETs are included in the Final Report as Figures 1 &amp; 2.</p> <p>3.2. Thank you for the correct email for Mr Jandre Bakker.</p> <p>4.1. The stated provisions of NEM:WA are noted and are factored into the EMPr rather generically by placing a mandate to comply holistically with NEM:WA. Compliance will be implemented and monitored by the SEO &amp; ECO respectively.</p>
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	<p>promulgated in Government Notice (“GN”) No. 926 of 29 November 2013.</p> <p>4.2. Hazardous and general waste should be stored separately. If there is mixing of these two waste streams, the entire portion of waste will be considered hazardous.</p> <p>5. Directorate: Air Quality Management - Mr Deon Stoltz (Deon.Stoltz@westerncape.gov.za):</p> <p>5.1. The following comments are provided for consideration in the EMPr:</p> <p>5.1.1. It is expected that dust and exhaust emissions will be generated during the various phases of the proposed development and could therefore be a significant nuisance. Dust generated during the various phases of the proposed development must comply with the National Dust Control Regulation (GN No. R. 827 of 1 November 2013), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No. 39 of 2004) (“NEM: AQA”). These regulations prohibit a person from conducting any activity in such a way as to give rise to dust in such quantities and concentrations the dust, or dust fall, has a detrimental effect on the environment, including health.</p> <p>5.1.2. It is recommended that a dust monitoring programme/ fugitive dust control plan, inclusive of dust suppression/collection methods, be implemented for both the Soventix SA Saldanha 1 and 2 solar PV facilities.</p> <p>5.1.3. Noise generated from the installation and operation of the various activities (e.g. air filters, gas compressors, gas turbines, electricity generators, electricity transformers,</p>	<p>4.2 This recommendation will be added to the EMPr.</p> <p>5.1.1 Included in the EMPr.</p> <p>5.1.2. Condition included in the EMPr.</p> <p>5.1.3. Condition included in the EMPr.</p>
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	<p>etc.) must comply with the Western Cape Noise Control Regulations (Provincial Notice 200/2013).</p> <p>5.1.4. In terms of section 35(2) of the NEM: AQA, the occupier of the premises must take all reasonable steps to prevent the emission of any offensive odour (diesel fumes, etc.) caused by any activity on such premises. It should be noted that all offensive odour complaints must be recorded, reported and investigated, should it be required.</p> <p>5.1.5. It is envisaged that likely emissions from the proposed activities requiring an amendment to the EA, include carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, water vapour, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen, nitrous oxide, particulate matter, and minor emissions of metals and metal compounds and organics. Best practice measures must be employed to minimise any air emissions, noise or dust nuisance that may take place on-site from the proposed activities.</p> <p>6. The applicant is reminded of its <i>“general duty of care towards the environment”</i> as prescribed in section 28 of the NEMA, 1998 which states that <i>“Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.”</i></p> <p>7. The Department reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any information received.</p>	<p>5.1.4. Recommendation included in the EMPr.</p> <p>5.1.5. Included in the EMPr including loading / offloading provisions in NEM:AQA.</p> <p>6. Chapter 3 of the EMPr refers to the Duty of Care.</p>
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<p>Portia Makitla</p> <p>DEFF: Biodiversity Conservation</p> <p><a href="mailto:pmakitla@environment.gov.za">pmakitla@environment.gov.za</a></p> <p>Email on 13/04/2021</p>	<p>The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned report.</p> <p>According to the different specialist updates, the proposed EA amendment will not result in any additional impacts. Therefore, the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation does not have any objection to the proposed amendment application, however the final EA amendment report must include the layout plan and the sensitivity map showing the exact location of the battery storage as well as gas turbine electricity generation (and associated fuel storage).</p> <p>NB: The Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: <a href="mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za">BCAdmin@environment.gov.za</a> for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>Kindly refer to Figures 1 &amp; 2 in the Final Motivation Report for the Site Sensitivity Layout Map with the positions of the additional infrastructure.</p> <p>All Public Participation Process documents will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: <a href="mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za">BCAdmin@environment.gov.za</a> for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>
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