



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/943

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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (SCOPING AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS) AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 75 MW PV ENERGY FACILITY (CHARLIE) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM NO. 121 AND PORTION 3 OF THE FARM NO 120, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 20 June 2016. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (EIA), 2014.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

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 Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs:

Letter signed by: Ms Toinette van der Merwe

Designation: Environmental Officer: EIA Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support

Date: 22/06/2016

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PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 75 MW AMDA CHARLIE SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM NO. 121 AND PORTION 3 OF THE FARM NO. 120 NEAR KENHARDT WITHIN THE KAI GARIB LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The draft Scoping Report (SR) dated May 2016 and received by this Department on 20 June 2016 refers.


This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- iii. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- iv. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.
- v. It is noted that no activity under GN R 985 is being applied for. However, should they at a later stage be found to be applicable, an amended application form as well as written comments must be obtained and submitted to this Department confirming their applicability to the proposed development. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

- vi. The specialist studies conducted must be specific to each of the sites applied for. Each specialist must provide recommendations and mitigation measures specific to each site and the EAP must provide mitigation measures, an assessment and recommendations for each site as well as the cumulative impacts for each of the facilities.
- vii. This Department requires a cumulative impact assessment to be undertaken in the final SR to determine potential fatal flaws.
- viii. Detailed cumulative impact assessments must be provided in the EIAR for all specialist studies conducted. The specialist studies must provide proof that other specialist reports were conducted for renewable energy projects in the area, were reviewed and indicate how the recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions have been taken into consideration when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- ix. A Socio-economic Assessment must be conducted to determine the impacts that the proposed activity may have on the social and economic environment of the area. Mitigation measures must be proposed and included in the EIAR and the EMPr.
- x. The terms of reference for the EMI and RFI studies requested by SKA SA must form part of the Plan of Study for EIA (POSEIA). Comments from SKA SA regarding these studies must form part of the final Scoping Report.
- xi. The avifaunal study undertaken by Simon Todd (an Ecologist) must be peer reviewed by an avifaunal specialist.
- xii. The following activities applied for may trigger Section 19 and Section 21 of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998: GN R. 983 Activities 12 and 19. A hydrological assessment must be conducted to assess the impacts on the surface hydrology of the proposed development area. The terms of reference for the study must include, *inter alia* the following:
 - Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development;
 - Identification, assessment of all potential impacts to the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures; and,
 - Recommendations on the preferred placement of the facility and all associated infrastructure and preference must be provided to the avoidance of the watercourses on the property.
- xiii. This Department requests the EAP to familiarise themselves with the requirements of Appendix 2 of GNR 982 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and ensure that the final SR submitted to this Department for consideration meets the requirements in terms of identifying, assessing and providing mitigation measures of the impacts on the alternative and preferred sites.
- xiv. Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.
- xv. In accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of—
 - (i) *the EAP who prepared the report; and*
 - (ii) *the expertise of the EAP to carry out the Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures;*
 must be submitted.
- xvi. You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- xvii. Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

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 faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 18/07/2016

cc:	Mr C Berrington	AMDA Charlie (Pty) Ltd	Email: charlie@amdadevelopments.co.za
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