



## 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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/941  
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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 (ALPHA) 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 MEGAWATTS (MW) ADMA ALPHA PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 1 OF N'ROUGAS ZUID NO. 121, STRAUSSHEIM AND PORTION 3 OF GEMSBOK BULT NO. 120 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 26 May 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 the application form is signed by the applicant and that a signed land owner's notification form is submitted to this Department.
- iv. The final SR must investigate and identify all traffic impacts associated with the proposed development.
- v. 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.
- vi. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.
- vii. 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 the EIA Regulations, 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.

- viii. It is noted that activities that trigger Section 19; S21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998 have been applied for. A separate hydrological assessment to assess the impacts on the surface hydrology of the proposed development area is required. The hydrological assessment to be conducted must assess *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.
- ix. The study area falls within the ambit of the Square Kilometre Array - South Africa. The impacts associated with radio frequency interference on the SKA must form part of the environmental impact assessment. The applicant must liaise with SKA-SA for advice on the terms of reference for the EMI and RFI detailed specialist studies.
- x. You are hereby advised that the final SR must provide the names of the specialists that will conduct the various studies as outlined in the PoSEIA.
- xi. All specialist reports that were done in-house must be externally peer reviewed before submission of the final EIAr. The peer-review must address the following:
- Acceptability of the terms of reference (ToR);
  - Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable;
  - Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence);
  - Discuss the mitigation measures and recommendations;
  - Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature;
  - Is the article well-written and easy to understand; and
  - Identify any short comings.
- xii. This Department requires that a cumulative impact assessment be undertaken in the final SR to determine potential fatal flaws. This assessment must incorporate cumulative impacts from all specialist assessments.
- xiii. The terms of reference for the agricultural specialist study must include, *inter alia* the following:
- Assessment of the loss of agricultural land;
  - The impact of the loss of agricultural land within the property as well as the cumulative impact of the loss of agricultural land on the site and within the area.
- xiv. A graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.
- xv. In terms of Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the report must include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
- the correctness of the information provided in the reports;
  - the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;
  - the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant;
  - any information provided by the EAP to I&APs; and
  - responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by I&APs.
- xvi. 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 Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures;
- must be submitted.
- xvii. 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.

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: 15/07/2016**

cc:	Mr C Berrington	ADMA Alpha (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:charlie@amdadevelopments.co.za">charlie@amdadevelopments.co.za</a>
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