



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/559/AM1

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Mr Andrew Melville Johnson
Bokamoso Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd
4th Floor, Global House
28 Sturdee Avenue
ROSEBANK
2196

Telephone Number: (010) 595 3333
Email Address: ajohnson@sunedison.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Johnson

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 09 JULY 2014 FOR THE 75MW BOKAMOSO PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY NEAR LEEUDORINGSTAD IN THE MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the above application by this Department on 09 July 2014, your application for amendment of the EA received by this Department on 23 May 2016 and the additional information received on 26 May 2016 refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, has decided to amend the EA dated 09 July 2014 as follows:

Amendment 1: Amendment to the contact details of the holder of the EA:

From:

"Bokamoso Energy (Pty) Ltd"

Represented by: Mr Dick Berlijn
2nd Floor West Tower
Maude Street
Nelson Mandela Square
SANDTON
2196

Telephone Number: (074) 248 8488
Fax Number: (086) 273 1614
E-mail address: berlijn@subsolar.co.za

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To:

"Bokamoso Energy (RF) (Pty) Ltd"

Represented by: Mr Andrew Melville Johnson
4th Floor, Global House
28 Sturdee Avenue
ROSEBANK
2196

Telephone Number: (010) 595 3333
Fax Number: (083) 854 1986
Cell phone Number: (083) 854 1986
Email Address: ajohnson@sunedison.com

The applicant applied to change the holder and contact details of the EA as this has changed since the EA was issued.

Amendment 2: Amendment to the project description of the EA:

Page 03 of the EA:

From:

"The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity via a 132kV overhead transmission line, located outside an urban area."

To:

"The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity via a 33/132kV onsite substation, outside an urban area."

Page 04 of the EA:

From:

"The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- ***PV Panel Array*** - Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will either be fixed to a single-axis horizontal tracking structure or tilted at a fixed angle equivalent to the latitude at which the site is located in order to capture the most sun.
- ***Wiring to Central Inverters*** - sections of the PV array will be wired to central inverters sized from 500kW to 2MW. The inverter's role is to convert direct current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity at grid frequency.
- ***Connection to the grid*** - connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 33kV. A 33/132kV onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid. The extent of the substation will approximately be 50mx50m, while the fencing of the substation will be 100mx100m. It is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the Harrisburg-Leeubos 132kV power line. The transmission line will be constructed within a 32m wide servitude.

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- **Supporting Infrastructure** - a control facility with basic services such as water and electricity will be constructed on the site and will have an approximate footprint of 400m² or less. Other supporting infrastructure includes voltage and current regulators and protection circuitry.
- **Roads** – an access road already exists from the regional road (R502). However an internal site road network to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure will be required. All site roads will require a width of approximately 4m.
- **Fencing** - for health, safety and security reasons, the facility will be required to be fenced off from the surrounding farm.”

To:

“The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- **PV Panel Array** - Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will either be fixed to a single-axis horizontal tracking structure or tilted at a fixed angle equivalent to the latitude at which the site is located in order to capture the most sun.
- **Wiring to Central Inverters** - sections of the PV array will be wired to central inverters sized from 500kW to 2MW. The inverter’s role is to convert direct current (DC) electricity to alternating current (AC) electricity at grid frequency.
- **Connection to the grid** - Connecting the array to the electrical grid requires transformation of the voltage from 480V to 33kV to 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this is fed into step up transformers to 33kV. A 33/132kV onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid. The extent of the substation will approximately be 50m x 50m, while the fencing of the substation will be 100m x 100m.
- **Supporting Infrastructure** - a control facility with basic services such as water and electricity will be constructed on the site and will have an approximate footprint of 400m² or less. Other supporting infrastructure includes voltage and current regulators and protection circuitry.
- **Roads** – an access road already exists from the regional road (R502). However an internal site road network to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure will be required. All site roads will require a width of approximately 4m.
- **Fencing** - for health, safety and security reasons, the facility will be required to be fenced off from the surrounding farm.”

Condition 01 on Page 05 of the EA:

From:

“The preferred location site and the power line route alternative that crosses the neighbourhood Farm (132 kV lines) in the Leeudoringstad area, is approved.”

To:

“The preferred location site in the Leeudoringstad area, is approved.”

The following is hereby removed from the EA:

Condition 95 on page 17 of the EA:

“All new power lines must be marked with bird flight diverters along their entire length. To create a net benefit, where possible, the new lines must run parallel to existing marked lines so as to reduce the collision risk posed by the older lines.”

Condition 96 on page 17 of the EA:

"The poles should be fitted with bird perches on top of the poles to draw birds, particularly vultures away from the potentially risky insulators."

Condition 97 on page 17 of the EA:

"All pylons to be constructed should make use of "bird friendly" monopole structures, fitted with a bird perch, as per Eskom standard guidelines."

The abovementioned amendment is to remove the grid connection infrastructure from the EA as it is no longer considered as technically feasible. A new application for environmental authorisation for the grid connection infrastructure was lodged.

This proposed amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the EA dated 09 July 2014 as amended.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the Department's decision in respect of the amendment made as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R. 993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

An appellant must submit an appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the competent authority.

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001; or

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia, Pretoria,

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: (012) 399 9356
Email: Appealsdirector@environment.gov.za

Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

For guidance on appeals submitted to the Minister in terms of NEMA and the SEMAs, please find a copy of the guideline on the administration of appeals on the Department's website: (https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations).

Yours faithfully


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Date: 08/06/2016

cc	Ms Carli Otte	Environamics	Email: environamicsa@gmail.com
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