

Your reference: N/A

Our reference: 11278 – Arriesfontein

Date: 31 January 2013

Dear Interested and Affected Party

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 19MW PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON THE FARM ARRIESFONTEIN 267 NEAR DANIELSKUIL, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

SiVEST would like to advise that, after reviewing the relevant documentation, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has issued Environmental Authorisation (DEA Ref. No:14/12/16/3/3/1/428 and NEAS Ref no: DEA/EIA/0000922/2012) for the proposed development of 19MV photovoltaic solar energy facility on the Farm Arriesfontein 267 near Danielskuil, Northern Cape Province, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, 107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010.

The Environmental Authorisation was received on 22 January 2013. Please refer to the attached Environmental Authorisation. The DEA is satisfied, on the basis of the information provided and subject to the compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified in the application form and the Final Environmental Authorisation Report (EIAR). The reasons given are as follows:

1. Information Considered in Making the Decision
 - a. Information contained in the BAR dated June 2012 and additional information dated October 2012;
 - b. The comments received from organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated June 2012 and additional information dated October 2012;;
 - c. Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated June 2012 and additional information dated October 2012 and the EMPr;
 - d. The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR;
 - e. The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

2. Key Factors in Making the Decision
 - a. The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and recommended mitigation measures;

- b. The need for the proposed project stems from provision of electricity to the national grid in terms of the REFIT programme and the provision of electricity from Independent Power Producers as required by the Department of Energy;
- c. The BAR dated June 2012 and additional information dated October 2012 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated June 2012 and additional information dated October 2012;
- d. The identification and assessment of the impacts are detailed in the BAR dated June 2012 and additional information dated October 2012 and sufficient assessment of the key identifies issues and impacts have been completed;
- e. The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated June 2012 and additional information dated October 2012 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated;
- f. A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2010 for public involvement.

In accordance with Government Notice No. R.543, Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010), should you or any party, including the applicant, wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, they or the applicant must, *inter alia*, lodge a notice of intention to appeal with the Minister, within 20 days after the date of decision (22nd January 2013), by means of the following methods

- By facsimile: 012 320 7561;
- By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001; or
- By hand: 2nd Floor,
Fedsure Building
North Tower
Corner of Lillian Ngoyi and Pretorius Streets
Preotria

Please refer to the attached appeal document provided by the DEA for the details pertaining to the appeal process.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to Mr T Zwane, Senior Legal Administration Officer (Appeals), to the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Zwane can also be contacted at:

- Tel: 012 310 3929
- Email: tzwane@environment.gov.za

Please note that appeals are not to be sent to SiVEST. A copy of the official appeal form can be obtained from Mr T Zwane at the details supplied above.

A copy of the Environmental Authorisation can be obtained at request from the Public Participation Office at the details below:

SiVEST Environmental: Nicolene Venter or Shaun Taylor

Tel: (011) 798 0600
Fax: (011) 803 7272
Email: iafrica@icon.co.za or shaunt@sivest.co.za

We would like to thank you for participating in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and being part of the public participation process during the EIA for this proposed project. Your participation has been valuable and highly appreciated and was a key factor in assisting the preparation of an informed Environmental Authorisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicolene".

Nicolene Venter
Public Participation & Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner

Documents included: Appeal Procedure