



# forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/2613

**Enquiries:** Mr Jay-Jay Mpelane

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9404, **E-mail:** [Jmpelane@dffe.gov.za](mailto:Jmpelane@dffe.gov.za)

Mr Simon Haw  
Castor Solar PV Project (Pty) Ltd  
2D Nautica, The Water Club, Beach Road  
Granger Bay  
**CAPE TOWN**  
8005

**Telephone Number:** (021) 421 9764  
**Email Address:** [Permits@sola.africa](mailto:Permits@sola.africa)

## PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Haw

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE PROPOSED 20MW CASTOR SOLAR PV PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR BOSHOF, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

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

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulates that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribe the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the 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 registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

**Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:**

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: [appeals@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfpe.gov.za)

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Arcadia  
**PRETORIA**  
0083

By post: Private Bag X447  
**PRETORIA**  
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal 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.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at [https://www.dfpe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.dfpe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@dfpe.gov.za](mailto:appeals@dfpe.gov.za)

Yours faithfully



**Ms Millicent Solomons**  
**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**  
Date: 29/11/2022.

|     |                  |                             |   |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| cc: | Ms Lisa de Lange | Environamics Cc             | Email: <a href="mailto:lisa@environamics.co.za">lisa@environamics.co.za</a>                   |
|     | Grace Mkhosana   | Free State DESTEA           | Email: <a href="mailto:mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za">mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za</a>                 |
|     | Mr. KJ Mothale   | Tokologo Local Municipality | Email: <a href="mailto:info@tokologo-municipality.co.za">info@tokologo-municipality.co.za</a> |



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

CONSTRUCTION OF A 20MW CASTOR SOLAR PV PROJECT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE

NEAR BOSHOF, FREE STATE PROVINCE

LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Authorisation register number:</b> | <i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2613</i>   |
| <b>Last amended:</b>                  | <i>First issue</i>   |
| <b>Holder of authorisation:</b>       | <i>Castor Solar PV Project (Pty) Ltd</i>   |
| <b>Location of activity:</b>          | <i>Free State Province: within Ward 1 of the Tokologo Local Municipality, located on Portion 1 of the Farm Merriesfontein No. 1725, near town of Boshof.</i> |

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

## Decision

The Department is satisfied, based on information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

## Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

### **Castor Solar PV Project (Pty) Ltd**

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Simon Haw

Castor Solar PV Project (Pty) Ltd

2D Nautica, The Water Club, Beach Road

Granger Bay

**CAPE TOWN**

8005

Telephone Number: (021) 421 9764

Email Address: [Permits@sola.africa](mailto:Permits@sola.africa)

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1,2, and 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

| Activity number  | Activity description   |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u></p> <p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</p> <p>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</p>  | <p>The solar project will transmit and distribute electricity of up to 66 kilovolts outside an urban area. The infrastructure for the distribution of electricity will include a power line (66 kV), an on-site substation and switching stations. It is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the existing Bosplaat Rural Substation.</p> |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 24(ii)</u></p> <p>The development of a road-</p> <p>(ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters.</p>   | <p>The proposed project includes the construction of access road to the site and it will be ~8m wide.</p>  |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28(ii):</u></p> <p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</p> | <p>The portions of the affected property have been used for grazing and the property will be re-zoned to “special” use for the proposed development. The development footprint of the solar project will be 40 hectares.</p>   |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56 (ii):</u></p> <p>The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre</p> <p>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.</p>  | <p>The existing access to the affected property does not have a reserve and will need to be widened by more than 6 metres.</p>   |
| <p><b>Listing Notice 2</b></p>   |  |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1:</u></p>  | <p>The proposed solar project will generate up to 20 megawatts electricity using a renewable resource.</p>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more.</p> |   |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15:</u><br/>                 The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.</p>                                  | <p>The portions of the site have not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years; therefore, more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation will be removed. The development footprint of the solar project will be 40 hectares.</p> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Listing Notice 3</b></p>  |  |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4:</u><br/>                 The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres<br/>                 (b) in the Free State-<br/>                 (i) outside urban areas”<br/>                 (gg) areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas.”</p> | <p>The internal roads will not have a reserve and will be 6 meters in width, and the main access to the site 8 meters in width. The project is located within 5km of a protected area in terms of NEMPAA, known as Boshof Nature Reserve located approximately 1km west of the proposed solar project as per the South Africa Protected Area Database of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.</p>  |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12:</u><br/>                 The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation,<br/>                 (b) in the Free State-<br/>                 (iv) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of watercourse or wetland.</p>  | <p>The proposed development is in the Free State province. Portions of the site have not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years, and the development footprint will be 40 hectares in extent.<br/>                 Furthermore, two depression wetlands are located outside of the site, on the opposite side of the R64, which fall within 100m of the proposed solar project. An artificial wetland (cement dam) is located within the area under assessment but outside of the development footprint.</p> |



Listing Notice 3, Item 18:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre,<br/>(b) in the Free State-<br/>(i) outside urban areas-<br/>(gg) areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas and<br/>(hh) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.</p> | <p>The existing access to the affected property does not have a reserve and will need to be widened by more than 6 metres.</p> <p>The proposed development is in the Free State province, outside of an urban area. The project is located within 5km of a protected area in terms of NEMPAA, known as Boshof Nature Reserve located approximately 1km west of the proposed solar project as per the South Africa Protected Area Database of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.</p> <p>Furthermore, two depression wetlands are located outside of the site, on the opposite side of the R64, which fall within 100m of the proposed solar project.</p> |
|--|---|

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 04 October 2022 at:

**SG 21 Code:**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| 20MW Castor Solar PV           | Latitude      | Longitude     |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Project Site                   | 28°33'52.65"S | 25°17'29.53"E |
| Proposed Access Point          | 28°34'6.76"S  | 25°17'42.81"E |
| Grid Connection Corridor       |               |               |
|                                | 28°33'58.88"S | 25°17'41.85"E |
|                                | 28°33'58.86"S | 25°17'41.86"E |
|                                | 28°33'58.92"S | 25°17'41.86"E |
|                                | 28°33'58.95"S | 25°17'41.85"E |
| Substation / switching station | 28°33'58.68"S | 25°17'41.40"E |

- for the construction of 20MW Castor Solar PV project and associated infrastructure, near Boshof, Free State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The associated infrastructure will include the following:

- Electrical reticulation network.
- Supporting Infrastructure such as roads, access gate, O&M Building, laydown Area, etc.
- Roads: access will be obtained via the R64 regional road to the south of the site. An internal site road network will also be required to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure.
- Fencing - For health, safety and security reasons, the facility will be required to be fenced off from the surrounding farm. Fencing with a height of up to 3 meters will be used.
- On-site substation and switching station 22kV or 66kV and power line 22kV or 66kV.
- Wiring to String or Central Inverters.
- PV Panel Array.

Technical details of the PV Facility:

| <b>Component</b>   | <b>Description/ Dimensions</b>  |
|--|---|
| Height of PV panels  | 4 - 6 meters  |
| Area of PV Array   | 40 Hectares (Development footprint)   |
| Number of inverters required                                   | String inverters: Up to 119.<br>Central inverters: Up to 6.   |
| Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations | String inverters (per item): 1400m <sup>2</sup><br>Central inverters (per item): 2100m <sup>2</sup>                       |
| Export capacity  | 20MW  |
| Capacity of on-site substation                                 | 22kV or 66kV  |
| Capacity of the power line                                     | 22kV or 66kV  |
| Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas | Permanent Laydown Area: 40 Hectares<br>Construction Laydown Area: ~2000 m <sup>2</sup>                                    |
| Area occupied by buildings                                     | Roads: 6600m <sup>2</sup> , Access gate: 10m <sup>2</sup> , and<br>Operations & Maintenance Building: 400m <sup>2</sup> . |
| Length of internal roads                                       | Access Road: 50m (Existing Road)<br>Internal Roads: 1000m.  |
| Width of internal roads  | Access Road: 8m (Existing Road)<br>Internal Roads: 6m.  |





|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Proximity to grid connection    | Approximately 250metres |
| Grid connection corridor width  | 50 - 200m               |
| Grid connection corridor length | Up to 250m              |
| Power servitude width           | Up to 32m               |
| Height of fencing               | Up to 3 meters          |

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed construction of 20MW Castor Solar PV project and associated infrastructure, near Boshof, Free State Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised must only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be affected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.

### **Notification of authorisation and right to appeal**

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
  - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
  - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
  - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
  - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

### **Commencement of the activity**

11. The authorised activity must not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended 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 has been finalised.

### **Management of the activity**

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR dated 04 October 2022 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
13. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
14. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
15. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

### **Frequency and process of updating the EMPr**

16. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 28 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
17. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
18. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
19. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated because of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
20. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

### **Monitoring**

21. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
  - 21.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
  - 21.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.

- 21.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 21.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

### **Recording and reporting to the Department**

22. All documentation e.g., audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
23. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
24. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
25. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
26. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
27. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

### **Notification to authorities**

28. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

### **Operation of the activity**

29. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

### **Site closure and decommissioning**

30. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time:

### **Specific conditions**

31. All contractors and employees must undergo induction which is to include a component of environmental awareness. The induction is to include aspects such as the need to avoid littering, the reporting and cleaning of spills and leaks and general good "housekeeping";
32. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
33. A stormwater management plan must be compiled and implemented for the project, facilitating the diversion of clean water to the delineated resources.
34. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected or endangered plant or animal species and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
35. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures as specified in the Avifauna Impact Assessment, Terrestrial biodiversity assessment, and Wetland Baseline & Risk Assessment must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
36. Construction must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
37. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal. No dumping of material on-site should be allowed.
38. Any substantial fossil remains (e.g., plant remains, vertebrate bones, teeth) encountered during excavation should be reported to SAHRA Contact details:

Ms. Colette Scheermeyer,  
South African Heritage Resources Agency,  
P.O. Box 4637,  
Cape Town  
8000.  
Tel: (021) 462 4502  
Fax: (021) 462 4509  
Email: cscheermeyer@sahra.org.za.,

for possible mitigation by a professional palaeontologist.

39. Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.

### General

40. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-

40.1. at the site of the authorised activity;

40.2. to anyone on request; and

40.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

41. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 29/11/2022.



**Ms Millicent Solomons**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

## Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

### 1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 05 September 2022.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated 04 October 2022.
- c) The comments received from South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), Mvelaphande Trading (Telkom), and Globeleq South Africa Management Services (Pty) Ltd, DFFE-Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation, and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated 04 October 2022.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendix D of the BAR dated 04 October 2022 and as appears below:

| Title                               | Prepared by   | Date           |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Terrestrial biodiversity assessment | The Biodiversity Company.                                     | July 2022.     |
| Avifauna Impact Assessment          | The Biodiversity Company.                                     | July 2022.     |
| Visual Impact Assessment            | Johan Botha: Donaway Environmental                            | July 2022.     |
| Agricultural compliance statement   | Maletsatsi Mohapi: The Biodiversity Company                   | July 2022.     |
| Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment | J A van Schalkwyk: Heritage Consultant.                       | July 2022.     |
| Palaeontological Impact Assessment  | John E. Almond PhD (Cantab.). Natura Viva cc.                 | November 2013. |
| Social Impact Assessment            | Marelle Botha & Johan Botha. Donaway Environmental.           | July 2022.     |
| Traffic Impact Assessment           | Jacques Nel: BVi Consulting Engineers Western Cape (Pty) Ltd. | AUGUST 2022.   |
| Wetland Baseline & Risk Assessment  | The Biodiversity Company.                                     | July 2022.     |

### 2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The BAR dated 04 October 2022 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.

- d) The location of the proposed 20MW Castor Solar PV Project.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated 04 October 2022 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, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

### **3. Findings**

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated 04 October 2022 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The information contained in the BAR dated 04 October 2022 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.





## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ms. Milicent Solomons  
Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms. Solomons

### APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 01 NOVEMBER 2022 – 16 DECEMBER 2022

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations, for the period of 01 November 2022 – 16 December 2022 whilst Mr Sabelo Malaza is fulfilling his temporary reassignment function at the Forestry Branch.

All the correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1996), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standard, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of these legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of Departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance on behalf of the department.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Devinagle Bendeman  
Deputy Director-General: RCSM (Regulatory Compliance and  
Sector Monitoring)

Date: 31 October 2022

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~  
appointment as Acting Chief  
Director: Integrated Environmental  
Authorisations

Signed:

Date: 31/10/2022.