



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Mr Hanekom

AMENDMENT APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: THE CONSTRUCTION OF WINE ESTATE CAPITAL MANAGEMENT 75MW PHOTOVOLTAIC ELECTRICITY GENERATION FACILITY ON PORTION 12 OF FARM 187 OLYVENKOLK, KENHARDT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Department's decision on the above application issued on 18 June 2013, and the subsequent application for amendment received by the Department on 22 August 2013 refer.

The application for amendment of the environmental authorisation (to amend the power line route from 1km to 8km, and to include for Portion 3 of Farm Olyvenkolk in the project description) has been determined to be substantive, as the environment or the rights/interests of other parties are likely to be adversely affected due to the following reasons:

The opinion provided in the amendment application that the 8km power line was assessed and was always included in the EIR dated February 2013 is noted. However, the EIR specifically states on page 28 that the preferred power line route is **1km** long and will run south in a straight line **to connect to the Eskom 132kV line to the south of the property**. It further states that the alternative power line of approximately 2km, to connect to the Eskom 132kV power line to the south of the property, is not preferred as it would impact on a bigger area since it would *double the length* of the electricity connection line.

These statements give the indication that a preferred power line of only 1km was to be constructed as part of this application, and that this 1km line was then planned to connect into a future Eskom power line leading from the Aries Substation (which would then be the subject of a separate application). Nowhere in the report is it specifically mentioned that an **8km** power line would be constructed, or that Portion 3 of Farm 187 Olyvenkolk also formed part of the application for environmental authorisation. The site development plan of the power line labeled "Eskom 132kV Power Line to Aries Substation" also seems to support this understanding.

The letters from your specialists submitted with the application for amendment and confirming that the full 8km route was assessed are noted. However, as this information was not clearly conveyed in the

EIR dated February 2013, it is felt that I&APs may have had the incorrect impression as to the intended length of the power line. This is evidenced in the project description provided in the South African Heritage Resources Authority's (SAHRA) letter dated 21 January 2013. The Heritage Impact Assessment provided in the EIR dated February 2013 also indicates the power line as being approximately 2km in length.

You are therefore requested to provide the following additional information to the Department for further consideration of the application:

- a) Proof that owners and occupiers of Portion 3 Farm Olyvenkolk and neighbouring owners and occupiers of the land adjacent to Portion 3 of Farm Olyvenkolk were also notified of the development;
- b) An aerial /satellite photo overlay map which displays both the authorised solar plant, the full 8km route of the power line and any sensitive environmental features located on or near the power line corridor, to scale. (The site sensitivity map included in the EIR did not show the full 8km power line route);
- c) The bend-point co-ordinates of the 8km power line route. Please submit these coordinates and the map referred to in point (b) above to the specialists, for confirmation by them that this was the power line route assessed. The originally signed specialist opinions must be provided to the Department;
- d) Please notify Interested & Affected Parties of the application for amendment and submit to them for comment an information document which includes: the map of the 8km power line route (as per point (b) above); the supporting opinions from your specialists which indicate that the entire 8km route was assessed and adequate mitigation measures thereof were provided for in the EIR/EMPr dated February 2013; and a copy of this correspondence from the Department. Key stakeholders such as the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), SAHRA and Eskom must also be notified.

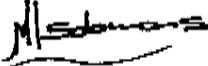
The Department awaits the requested information before further processing the abovementioned application. The information document mentioned in (d) above must be made available to the DEA prior to the commencement of the comment period and after completion of the comment period, along with any comments received and the EAPs response thereto attached as appendices, in hardcopy and electronic format, so as to facilitate internal commenting procedures.

You are reminded to include with all specialist reports or opinions, a completed specialist declaration of interest form (available from the Department).

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 of GN 543 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the regulations; and GN 543(56) with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. Please provide for a comment period of at least 30 days.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Ishaam Abader
Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement
Department of Environmental Affairs
Letter signed by: Ms M Solomons
Designation: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Date: 30/09/2012.

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