



Your reference:

Our reference: 10273 – DROOGFONTEIN
(Amendment)
Date: 25 May 2012

Dear Stakeholder

APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TWO X 75 MW CONCENTRATING PHOTOVOLTAIC (CPV)/PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PLANTS IN KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

- **DROOGFONTEIN 2: NOTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (DEA REF. No.: 12/12/20/2024/1 AND NEAS REF. No.: DEA/EIA/0000832/2011)**
- **DROOGFONTEIN 3: NOTIFICATION OF REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (DEA REF. No.: 12/12/20/2024/1/1 AND NEAS REF. No.: DEA/EIA/0000832/2011)**

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Mainstream) obtained an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the construction of a Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) plant on the farm Droogfontein in Kimberley, Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province, (DEA Reference 12/12/20/204/1) on 02 November 2011. The proposed project involved the construction of a 150MW CSP plant.

Following the environmental authorisation for the 150MW CSP plant it became evident to Mainstream that the CSP technology would no longer be viable due to financial reasons and based on the criteria for the Bid process stipulated by the Department of Energy. Mainstream is therefore now proposing to replace the 150MW CSP with two (2) 75MW Photovoltaic (PV) plants, herein after referred to as Droogfontein PV2 and Droogfontein PV3.

In terms of Condition 1.4 of the EA and section 39 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of June 2012, an applicant can apply to the relevant competent authority for the amendment of the EA if there is a material change in the circumstances which existed at the time of granting of the EA. After consultation with the DEA, a letter date 30 April 2012 was issued from the DEA advising SiVEST of the procedure to be followed with regards to the submission of the Amendment Application and Motivation Reports for a substantive amendment.

The Motivation Reports are an amendment to the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) dated 05 July 2011 and each cover the following:

- All envisaged environmental impacts that may be caused by the proposed development;
- Revised specialist studies that have been conducted to reflect the change in technology and consider cumulative impacts; and

- Public Participation Process conducted, including consultation with various Government Departments and Organs of State.

This letter serves to bring the proposed Amendment Applications under the attention of Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), stakeholders and relevant Organs of State. In terms of Regulation 54 of the EIA Regulations (2010), an opportunity is being provided for I&APs, stakeholders and Organs of State to submit written comments on the proposed Amendment Application.

The motivations for the Amendment Applications and relevant information is available in the Motivation for Amendment Reports and is available for public review and comment from **Friday 25 May 2012** to **Monday 25 June 2012** (end of business) on the SiVEST website (<http://www.sivest.co.za/Download.aspx>) then browse to the folder '*10273 Droogfontein Amendments*'). Copies of each of the Executive Summaries are attached, for your perusal, to this letter.

Should I&APs, stakeholders and Organs of State wish to submit comments on the Amendment Application and the Motivation Reports, SiVEST urge that these written submissions reached us before or on **Monday 25 June 2012**.

Kind Regards

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

Nicolene Venter
Public Participation Practitioner

Document attached: Comment Form
Executive Summary of the Motivation for Amendment Report.