



## 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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2365

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Mr. Dick Berlijn  
Paleso Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd  
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SANDTON  
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Mobile Number: +27742 488 488  
Email Address: [berlijn@subsolar.co.za](mailto:berlijn@subsolar.co.za)

### PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr Berlijn

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE 150MW PALESO SOLAR POWER PLANT NEAR VILJOENSKROON SITUATED WITHIN THE MOQHAKA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, THE GREATER FEZILE DABI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE 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 14 (fourteen) 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 stipulate 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 abuse or compromise 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 prescribes 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

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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@environment.gov.za](mailto:appeals@environment.gov.za)

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko  
Arcadia  
Pretoria  
0083; or

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.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal\\_authorisations](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appeals@environment.gov.za](mailto:appeals@environment.gov.za).

Yours faithfully

  
**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

Date: 04/10/2021

cc:	Grace Mkhosana	Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Email: <a href="mailto:mkhosana@detaa.fs.gov.za">mkhosana@detaa.fs.gov.za</a>
	Mr Simon Mogwathi	Moghaka Local Municipality	Email: <a href="mailto:mms@moghaka.gov.za">mms@moghaka.gov.za</a>
	Christia van Dyk	Environamics CC (EAP)	Email: <a href="mailto:christia@environamics.co.za">christia@environamics.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

**The 150MW Paleso Solar Power Plant near Viljoenskroon situated within the Moqhaka Local Municipality in the Free State Province**

**The Greater Fezile Dabi District Municipality**

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2365</i>
<b>Last amended:</b>	<i>First issue</i>
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	<i>Paleso Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd</i>
<b>Location of activity:</b>	<i>Grootdraai No. 468; Remaining Extent and Remaining Extent of Portion 1; Pretorius Kraal No. 53; Portion 23 and Portion 24 in Ward 4, near Viljoenskroon within the Moqhaka Local Municipality, the greater Fezile Dabi District Municipality in the Free State Province.</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, on the basis of 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 –

### **PALESO SOLAR POWER PLANT (RF) (PTY) LTD**

(hereafter referred to as the holder of the authorisation)

with the following contact details –

Mr. Dick Berlijn

Paleso Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 785553

**SANDTON**

2146

Telephone Number: +2701 500 3680

Mobile Number: +27742 488 488

Email Address: [berlijn@subsolar.co.za](mailto:berlijn@subsolar.co.za)

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 11:</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275kV or more."</i></p>	<p>The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity of 132 kilovolts outside an urban area. The infrastructure for the distribution of electricity will include a powerline (132 kV), an on-site HV/MV substation (130 MVA, High Voltage: 88/132kV, Medium Voltage: 33kV) and switching station.</p> <p>It is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with Vaal Reefs Nine 132/6.6 kV Substation or using a loop in – loop out connection to either the Western Reef SWS / Jersey DS 1 88 kV HV Overhead Line or Western Reef SWS / Jersey DS 2 88 kV HV Overhead Line.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 28(ii):</u></p> <p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 1998 and where such development –</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	<p>Portions of the affected farm has been previously used for grazing and the property will be re-zoned to "special" use. The development footprint of the solar power plant will be 337 hectares.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 24(ii):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road –</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters;</i></p>	<p>The internal roads will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 56 (ii):</u> "The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (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><u>Listing Notice 2, Activity 1:</u> "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>The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to 150 megawatts electricity through the use of a renewable resource.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Activity 15:</u> "The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."</p>	<p>In terms of vegetation type the preferred site falls within the Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion, more precisely the Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland (Gh10) and Vaal Reefs Dolomite sinkhole (Gh12) which is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) respectively as 'endangered' and 'vulnerable'. Activity 15 is triggered since portions of the site has 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 power plant will be 337 hectares.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 4 (b) (i) (ee):</u> "The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres (b) in the Free State, (i) outside urban areas and within (ee) critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</p>	<p>The internal roads will not have a reserve and will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width. The project is located within the Free State Province and falls outside of an urban area but a portion of the site falls within CBA 1 areas as identified in the Free State 2015 Biodiversity Plan.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 10 (b)(i)(ee)(hh):</u> "The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80</p>	<p>The proposed development will need to develop infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (diesel) in containers with a capacity exceeding 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres. The project is located within the Free State Province and falls outside of an</p>

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<p><i>cubic metres (b) in the Free State (i) outside urban areas and within (ee) Critical Biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>urban area but a portion of the site falls within CBA 1 areas as identified in the Free State 2015 Biodiversity Plan. The site is in close proximity of the Vaal River.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 12 (b)(i)(ii)(iv):</u>  <i>"The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation...                  (b) in the Free State                  (i) within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004,                  (ii) within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.                  iv. Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland."</i></p>	<p>The proposed development is located in the Free State province and the vegetation on site is classified as being 'endangered' or 'vulnerable'. Portions of the site has not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years, a portion of the site is located within CBA 1. The development footprint of the project will be 337 hectares and therefore, more than 300 square meters of indigenous vegetation will be removed.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 18 (b) (i) (ee) (hh):</u>  <i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (b) in the Free State (i) outside urban areas and within (ee) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i></p>	<p>The existing access road to the site will need to be widened by more than 4 metres. The project is located within the Free State Province and falls outside of an urban area, but a portion of the site falls within CBA 1 areas as identified in the Free State 2015 Biodiversity Plan. The site is in close proximity to the Vaal River.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated 13 August 2021 at:

**Farm and portion name:** Grootdraal No. 468; Remaining Extent and Remaining Extent of Portion 1; Pretorius Kraal No. 53; Portion 23 and Portion 24

**Nearest Town:** Viljoenskroon

Ward number: 04

Local municipality: Mqohaka Local Municipality

District municipality: the greater Fezile Dabi District Municipality

Province: Free State Province

**SG 21 Code**

**Solar Power Plant**

F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	8	0	0	0	0	0
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**Power Line**

F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	8	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	8	0	0	0	0	1
F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	2	3
F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	2	4

Coordinates	Latitude	Longitude
<b>Project Site</b>	27° 0'27.83"S	26° 44'5.62"E
	27° 0'27.83"S	26° 44'5.62"E
	27° 0'34.38"S	26° 42'51.81"E
	27° 0'15.82"S	26° 43'5.78"E
	27° 0'7.90"S	26° 42'52.39"E
	27° 0'26.36"S	26° 42'38.28"E
	27° 0'11.27"S	26° 42'14.05"E
	26° 59'6.50"S	26° 42'36.31"E
<b>Proposed Access Point</b>	26° 59'9.44"S	26° 42'39.69"E
<b>Access Point (Alternative)</b>	27° 0'15.41"S	26° 42'33.37"E
<b>Power Line Corridor</b>	27° 0'24.14"S	26° 43'56.19"E
	27° 0'24.24"S	26° 43'59.77"E
	27° 0'0.37"S	26° 43'57.41"E
	27° 0'3.73"S	26° 44'0.86"E
	27° 0'0.58"S	26° 44'3.70"E
	27° 0'3.85"S	26° 44'4.53"E
	26° 59'41.35"S	26° 44'36.86"E

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	26°59'43.27"S	26°44'40.05"E
	26°59'24.28"S	26°44'39.69"E
	26°59'25.79"S	26°44'43.06"E
	26°59'5.82"S	26°44'53.40"E
	26°59'3.77"S	26°44'59.58"E
	26°58'59.07"S	26°44'42.34"E
	26°58'55.07"S	26°44'45.48"E
<b>Substation</b>	27° 0'23.82"S	26°43'56.61"E
	27° 0'20.75"S	26°43'56.61"E
	27° 0'20.65"S	26°43'51.02"E
	27° 0'23.79"S	26°43'50.97"E
<b>Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)</b>	27° 0'24.44"S	26°43'48.99"E
	27° 0'28.99"S	26°43'57.61"E
	27° 0'24.51"S	26°43'57.57"E
	27° 0'30.88"S	26°43'48.99"E

- for the 150MW Paleso Solar Power Plant near Vlljoenskroon situated within the Moqhaka Local Municipality, the greater Felizle Dabl District Municipality in the Free State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Technical details of the proposed facility:

- PV Panel Array - to produce up to 150 MW, the proposed facility will require numerous linked cells placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a panel. Multiple panels will be required to form the solar PV arrays which will comprise the PV facility. The PV panels will be tilted at a northern angle in order to capture the most sun.
- Wiring to Central Inverters - Sections of the PV array will be wired to central inverters. The inverter is a pulse width mode inverter that converts 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 88kV or 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 88kV or 132kV. An onsite substation and switching station will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 88kV or 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid via a single circuit 132 kV power line or loop-in loop-out 88kV power line (assessed within a 100 m wide grid connection corridor). Whilst Paleso Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has not yet received a cost estimate letter from

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Eskom, it is expected that the electricity generated from the facility will be evacuated to the national grid via a connection to the existing Vaal Reefs Nine 132/6.6 KV Substation or alternatively to one of the two 88kV power lines (Western Reef SWS / Jersey DS 1 88 kV HV Overhead Line or Western Reef SWS / Jersey DS 2 88 kV HV Overhead Line) which will be via a loop-in loop-out connection. The Project will inject up to 100 MW into the National Grid. The installed capacity will be approximately 150 MW.

- Two alternative power line routes are being considered for development within the assessed grid connection corridor (100 m wide) (refer to chapter 4 for more information). The technically preferred power line route is located east of the project footprint. The power line corridor from the on-site substation to the Vaal Reefs Nine substation (located on the Vaal South Reefs Gold mine) is approximately 3.5 kilometres long. The Vaal Reef Nine Substation is the furthest connection point from the site.
- Electrical reticulation network – An internal electrical reticulation network will be required and will be laid ~2-4 m underground as far as practically possible.
- Supporting Infrastructure – The following auxiliary buildings with basic services including water and electricity will be required on site:
  - - Office (~200 m<sup>2</sup>);
  - Switch gear and relay room (~400 m<sup>2</sup>);
  - Staff lockers and changing room (~200 m<sup>2</sup>); and
  - Security control (~60 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Battery Energy Storage System – Up to 500 MW Battery Storage Facility with a maximum height of 8m and a maximum volume of 1740 m<sup>3</sup> of batteries and associated operational, safety and control infrastructure.
- Roads – Access to the facility will be obtained via a gravel road from the Stokkiesdraai road connected to the R30 Provincial Road. An internal site road network will also be required, with a width of between 6 m and 12 m, to provide access to the solar field and associated infrastructure. The access and internal roads will be constructed within a 25-meter corridor.
- Fencing - for health, safety and security reasons, the facility will be required to be fenced off from the surrounding properties. Fencing with a height of 2.5 meters will be used.

## **Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation**

### **Scope of authorisation**

1. The 150MW Paleso Solar Power Plant near Viljoenskroon situated within the Mqhaka Local Municipality, the greater Feltzile Dabi District Municipality in the 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 may 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 effected. 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 in order 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 shall 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 August 2021 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
13. The EMPr must be implemented and enforced during all phases of the project. It must be seen as a dynamic document and must 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 to 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 EIAr 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 23 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 as a result 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, taking into account 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. 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.
32. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the Ecological specialist. The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged.
33. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
34. A percentage (at least 30%) of Aloe zebrine species in the proposed development area must be relocated to suitable habitat on the same farm or to another farm nearby. A walkthrough survey must be conducted to determine the number and location of individual species.
35. An avifauna specialist must be consulted to conduct a specialist study for the project area and monitoring of the potential impact of the solar plant in the future.
36. A walk-down survey must be conducted by a qualified palaeontologist and archaeologist prior to construction and the report must be submitted to SARHA for comment.
37. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

### General

38. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-
  - 38.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
  - 38.2. to anyone on request; and

- 38.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
39. 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: 04/10/2001



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**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 09 July 2021.
- b) The information contained in the Basic Assessment Report dated 13 August 2021.
- c) The comments received from South African Heritage Resources Agency (SARHA), Eskom, the South African Astronomical Observatory, Department of Water and Sanitation, South African Radio Astronomy Observatory and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated 13 August 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of BAR dated 13 August 2021 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Avifaunal Assessment	Agreenco	June 2021
Terrestrial Biodiversity, Plant and Animal Impact Assessment	AGES	April 2021
Wetland Assessment	AGES	April 2021
Heritage Impact Assessment	J van Schalkwyk Heritage Consultant	April 2021
Paleontological Study	NATURA VIVA CC	April 2021
Agriculture Agro-ecosystem Specialist Assessment	Johann Lanz Soil Scientist	2 July 2021
Visual Impact Assessment	Phala Environmental Consultants	June 2021
Social Impact Assessment	Phala Environmental Consultants	June 2021
Traffic Assessment Study	BVI Consulting Engineers	May 2021
Geotechnical Study	SMEC South Africa	7 May 2021
EMPr	Environamics	August 2021

## **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 13 August 2021 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed wind energy facility.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated 13 August 2021 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 13 August 2021 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 13 August 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMP 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.

## Annexure 2: Locality Plan

