



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2535

Enquiries: Ms Makhosazane Yeni

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Mr Dick Berlijn
Ngwedi Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 785553
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number: 011 500 3680
Cell phone Number: 074 248 8488
Email Address: 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 NGWEDI PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 23, REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 24 AND PORTION 27 OF THE FARM PRETORIUS KRAAL NO. 53, REGISTRATION DIVISION VILJOENSKROON, 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.

The Applicant and Environmental Assessment Practitioner requested that Activity 14 of Listing Notice 1 be removed from the Environmental Authorisation, since the storage of dangerous goods will be less than 80 cubic metres on site.

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.

MS.

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@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 or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Ms Millicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
Date: 27/07/2022.

cc:	Ms Christia van Dyk	Environamics CC	Cell: 083 450 0406	E-mail: christia@environamics.co.za
	Grace Mkhosana	Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	Tel: 051 400 4817	E-mail: mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za
	Simon Mqwathi	Moghaka Local Municipality	Tel: 056 216 9911	E-mail: mms@moghaka.gov.za



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 Ngwedi Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 23, Remaining Extent of Portion 24 and Portion 27 of the Farm Pretorius Kraal No. 53, Registration Division Viljoenskroon within the Moqhaka Local Municipality in the Free-State Province

Greater Dr Fezile Dabi District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2535</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Ngwedi Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd.</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Portion 23, Remaining Extent of Portion 24 and Portion 27 of the Farm Pretorius Kraal No. 53, Registration Division Viljoenskroon within the Moqhaka Local Municipality and 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.

Ms.

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 –

NGWEDI SOLAR POWER PLANT (RF) (PTY) LTD

with the following contact details –

Mr Dick Berlijn
P O Box 785553
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number: (011) 500 3680
Cell phone Number: 074 248 8488
Email Address: 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, Item 11(i):</u></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>Activity 11(i) is triggered as the proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity of 132kV outside an urban area. The infrastructure for the distribution of electricity will include a power line (132kV), an on-site HV/MV substation (130 MVA, High Voltage: 88/132kV, Medium Voltage: 33kV) and switching station. It is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the Vaal Reefs Nine 132/6.6kV substation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 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>Activity 24(ii) is triggered as the internal roads will be 6m in width and the perimeter road will be up to 12m in width and will have a combined total length of ~15km.</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 or afforestation on or after 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>Activity 28(ii) is triggered as 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 237 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>Activity 56 (ii) is triggered as the existing access to the affected property does not have a reserve and will need to be widened by 10 metres.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1</u></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>Activity 1 is triggered since the proposed photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to 150 megawatts electricity using a renewable resource.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15</u></p> <p>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation</p>	<p>In terms of vegetation type the site falls within the Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion, more precisely the Vaal Reefs Dolomite sinkhole (Gh12) which is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) respectively as '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 237 hectares.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4(b)(i)(gg)</u></p> <p>The development of a road wider than 4 m with a reserve less than 13.5m.</p> <p>(b) in the Free State, (i) outside urban areas, within (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>Activity 4(b)(i)(gg) is triggered since the internal roads will not have a reserve and will be 6m in width. The perimeter road of the facility will be up to 12m in width. The roads will have a total length of ~15km. The proposed project is located in the Free State Province, outside urban areas and within 5km of a protected area in terms of NEMPAA. The Mispha Game farm is located approximately 2km south-east of the proposed development as per the South Africa Protected Area Database of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 10 (b)(i)(gg)</u></p> <p>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 cubic metres, (b) in the Free State</p>	<p>Activity 10(b)(i)(gg) is triggered since the proposed development will need to develop infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (diesel) in containers with a combined capacity exceeding 30 cubic metres but not exceeding 80 cubic metres. The dangerous goods will be stored in a bunded area</p>

<p>(i) outside urban areas, (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>within the construction site during the construction phase. During the operational phase the dangerous goods will be stored in a bunded area within the operations and maintenance areas. The dangerous goods to be stored on site relates to diesel/petrol and oil.</p> <p>The project is located in the Free State province and falls outside of an urban area but is located within 5km of a protected area as identified in terms of NEMPAA. The Mispha Game farm is located approximately 2km south-east of the proposed development as per the South Africa Protected Area Database of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18(b)(i)(gg)</u> 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, (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>Activity 18 (b)(i)(gg) is triggered since the existing access road to the site will need to be widened by 10 metres. The project is located within the Free State Province and falls outside of an urban area but is located within 5km of a protected area as identified in terms of NEMPAA. The Mispha Game farm is located approximately 2km south-east of the proposed development as per the South Africa Protected Area Database of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment.</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 01 June 2022 at:

Solar Power Plant

Portion 23 of the Farm Pretorius Kraal No. 53

South-West (SW) Power Line: Option 1

Remaining Extent of Portion 24,

Portion 27 of the Farm Pretorius Kraal No. 53.

SG 21 Code: Ngwedi SEF

F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	2	3
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SG 21 Code: Powerline for the Ngwedi SEF

F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	2	4
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F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	2	7
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Footprint coordinates: Project site (facility)

<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>Latitude (S)</u>	<u>Longitude (E)</u>
A	26°58'44.12"S	26°43'0.96"E
B	26°58'38.27"S	26°43'11.07"E
C	26°58'29.91"S	26°47'32.48"E
D	26°56'41.68"S	26°44'36.07"E
E	27°0'0.34"S	26°44'3.70"E

Power Line coordinates

<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>Latitude (S)</u>	<u>Longitude (E)</u>
1	26°59'26.73"S	26°44'22.80"E
2	26°59'24.01"S	26°44'39.61"E
3	26°59'5.83"S	26°44'53.33"E
4	26°58'59.04"S	26°44'42.44"E
5	26°58'54.93"S	26°44'45.73"E
6	26°59'3.63"S	26°44'59.69"E
7	26°59'26.72"S	26°44'42.82"E
8	26°59'30.26"S	26°44'23.66"E

Substation coordinates

<u>Coordinates</u>	<u>Latitude (S)</u>	<u>Longitude (E)</u>
A	26°59'28.42"S	26°44'17.77"E
B	26°59'27.55"S	26°44'23.09"E
C	26°59'30.73"S	26°44'23.76"E
D	26°59'31.61"S	26°44'18.39"E

BESS coordinates		
Coordinates	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
A	26°59'30.77"S	26°44'25.98"E
B	26°59'36.21"S	26°44'30.78"E
C	26°59'36.19"S	26°44'19.33"E
D	26°59'32.00"S	26°44'18.48"E

Proposed access road coordinates:		
Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	26°58'43.58"S	26°43'1.69"E
2	26°58'51.17"S	26°43'7.96"E
3	26°58'59.60"S	26°43'15.07"E

- for proposed Ngwedi Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 23, Remaining Extent of Portion 24 and Portion 27 of the farm Pretorius Kraal No. 53, Registration Division Viljoenskroon within the Mqophaka Local Municipality and the Greater Fezile Dabi District Municipality in the Free-State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The key components of the proposed project are described below:

PV Panel Array

- To produce up to 150MW, 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 to capture most of the 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 132kV. The normal components and dimensions of a distribution rated electrical substation will be required. Output voltage from the inverter is 480V and this will feed into step up transformers to 132kV. An onsite substation will be required on the site to step the voltage up to 132kV, after which the power will be evacuated into the national grid via the proposed new power line. Whilst Ngwedi Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd has not yet received a cost estimate letter from Eskom, it is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the

existing Vaal Reefs Nine132/6.6kV substation. The project will inject up to 100MW into the National Grid. The installed capacity will be approximately 150MW.

A grid connection corridor, with a width of approximately 100m to 150m, has been assessed for the placement of the power line. The corridor is located to the east of the proposed site and is ~1.6km in length.

Electrical reticulation network

- An internal electrical reticulation network will be required and will be laid ~2-4 m underground as far as possible.

Supporting Infrastructure

- The following auxiliary buildings with basic services including water and electricity will be required on site:
 - Office (~200m²).
 - Switch gear and relay room (~400m²).
 - Staff lockers and changing room (~200m²); and
 - Security control (~60m²).

Battery Energy Storage System

- Up to 500MW Battery Storage Facility with a maximum height of 8m and a maximum volume of 1740m³ 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. The existing access road to the site will need to be widened by 10 metres. An internal site road network will also be required, with a width of 6m and the perimeter road will have a width of 12m 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.

Technical details of the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	6 meters
Area of PV Array	237 hectares (development footprint) 291 hectares (assessed area)
Number of inverters required	Minimum 50
Area occupied by inverter/transformer stations/substations/BESS	Central inverters+ LV/MV trafo: 20m ² HV/MV substation with switching station: 15 000m ² BESS: 4 000m ²
Capacity of on-site substation	132kV
Capacity of the power line	132kV
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Permanent laydown area: 237 hectares Construction laydown area: ~2000m ²
Area occupied by buildings	Security Room: ~60m ² Office: ~200m ² Staff locker and changing room: ~200m ²
Battery storage facility	Maximum height: 8m Maximum volume: 1740m ³ Capacity: 500MW
Length of internal roads	Approximately 15km
Width of internal roads	Internal roads: 6m Perimeter road: 12m
Grid connection corridor width	Up to 150m, with some areas being ~100m wide
Grid connection corridor length	Approximately 1.6 kilometers
Power servitude width	32m
Height of fencing	Approximately 2.5 meters

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. This authorisation is for Ngwedi Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 23, Remaining Extent of Portion 24 and Portion 27 of the farm Pretorius Kraal No. 53, Registration Division Viljoenskroon within the Moqhaka Local Municipality and The Greater Fezile 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 (10) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. 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.
11. The notification referred to must –
 - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued,
 - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014,
 - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

12. 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

13. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to the registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 13.1. The position of the solar PV panels,
 - 13.2. Power line route,
 - 13.3. All associated infrastructure (existing and proposed),
 - 13.4. All sensitive features i.e., rocky grassland, riverine, etc,
 - 13.5. Buffer areas, i.e.30m of stromatolites; 32m buffer zone around the watercourse and

- 13.6. All “no-go” areas.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the facility and distribution as well as transmission (as they are not signed) submitted as part of the BAR are not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map. The EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.
 15. The amended EMPr must include the final layout map.
 16. 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.
 17. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
 18. 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

19. 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.
20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. 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.
22. 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.

23. 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

24. 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.
- 24.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 24.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 24.4. 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

25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.

28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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

31. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. 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

32. 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

33. 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

34. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
35. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal of protected species i.e., a *Boophone* and an *Aloe* species prior construction.

36. A walkdown of the area must be completed by a qualified Palaeontologist to catalogue and photograph well preserved stromatolites to incorporate the findings in the final layout map. This action must take place after initial vegetation clearance but before the ground is levelled for construction.
37. Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed in other areas during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner or authority so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.
38. All declared aliens must be identified and managed in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983).
39. The entire power line length must be fitted with bird flight diverters, as recommended by the Avifaunal specialist.
40. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
41. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum.
42. The following mitigation measures must be implemented regarding storage of fuel on site:
 - 42.1. Fuel storage tanks must be bunded (100% of the proposed tank's capacity) to contain any possible spills and to prevent any infiltration of fuel into the ground.
 - 42.2. Fuel tanks used for fuel storage must be designed and installed in accordance with relevant Oil Industry standards and SANS codes. The tanks must be constructed to conform to the requirements of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act (Act No. 45 of 1965),
 - 42.3. The area surrounding the fuel tanks must be kept clean of flammable material and the required warning signs must be erected and be visible during the construction phase.
43. 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.
44. 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

45. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 45.1. at the site of the authorised activity,

- 45.2. to anyone on request; and
- 45.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
46. 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: 27/07/2022.



Ms Milicent 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 amended application form received on 01 June 2022.
- b) The information contained in the final BAR dated 01 June 2022.
- c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated 01 June 2022.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the final BAR and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated 01 June 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 ties in with the national government policies, plans, and programmes, which have relevance to energy planning and production.
- c) The final BAR dated 01 June 2022 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed grid connection, which considers environmentally sensitive areas.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated 01 June 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 01 June 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 proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) 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
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Ms. Milicent Solomons
Director: Prioritized Infrastructure Projects

Dear Mrs Solomons

**APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD OF 25 APRIL 2022 UNTIL 31 OCTOBER 2022**

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as the Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations for the period of 25 April to 31 October 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 Authorizations 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. Devinagie Bendeman
Deputy Director-General: RCSM (Regulatory Compliance and
Sector Monitoring)

Date 20 April 2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

Signed:

Date: 20/04/2022