



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1121

Enquiries: Zamalanga Langa

Telephone: 012-395-9389 E-mail: zlanga@environment.gov.za

Mr J du Preez
Vintage Energy (Pty) Ltd
Postnet Suite 148
Private Bag X75
BRYANSTON
2021

Tel: 011 514 0995

Email: jan.ve@powermatla.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr du Preez

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: GN R982/983/984/985, AS AMENDED: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 100MW PV SOLAR POWER FACILITY ON THE FARM BRYPAAL, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE 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 EA, of the Department's 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 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

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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: appealsdirector@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 appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Date: 25/09/2019

CC:	Mr JF Erusmus	Boscia Environmental Solutions	Tel: 082 460 8943	Email: sumsar@mweb.co.za / cindyfaul35@yahoo.com
	Samantha De la Fontain	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	Tel: 054 431 6300	Email: sdelafontein@gmail.com



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

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

Proposed development of a 100mw PV solar power facility on the farm Brypaal within the Kai !Garib

Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province

ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/1121</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Vintage Energy (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Remainder of Portion 4 of 134 Kai !Garib Local Municipality; ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape 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, 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, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

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, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

VINTAGE ENERGY (PTY) LTD.

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

with the following contact details –

Mr. J du Preez
Posnet Suite 148
Private Bag X75

BRYANSTON
2021

Telephone Number: (011) 514 0995

Email Address: jan.ve@powermatla.com

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983) Listing Notice 2 (GN R.984) and Listing Notice 3 (GN R. 985):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 983: Item 9:</u> <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity-</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts;</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will include the construction of Onsite substation (transformation substation) with a capacity of 33/132kV</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983: Item 28:</u> <i>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:</i> <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</i></p>	<p>The construction of a PV SOLAR POWER (PVSP) facility (with associated infrastructure) for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource (solar radiation) where the electricity output is 100MW in total.</p> <p>The clearance of a footprint area of less than 320 hectares (only probable 221, 36 ha) for total PV facility, other supporting infrastructure of indigenous vegetation during site preparation for the establishment of the activities associated with the proposed project</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984: Item 1:</u> <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs within an urban area.</i></p>	<p>The construction of a PV SOLAR POWER (PVSP) facility (with associated infrastructure) for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource (solar radiation) where the electricity output is 100MW in total.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 984: Item 15:</u> The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p>	<p>The clearance of an footprint area of up to probable 320 ha or less, of indigenous vegetation during site preparation for the establishment of all infrastructures associated with the project The actual project footprint</p>

<p>(ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>	<p>will depend on the surface areas required for the different components of the project</p>
<p><u>GN R. 985: Item 4:</u> The development of a road wider than 4m with a reserve less than 13.5m. <i>g. Northern Cape</i> <i>iv. Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</i></p>	<p>An access road will be constructed on site to give access to the contractors initially and eventually where required a permanent road on site for easy access during the operational phase of the PVSP project. An access road is also needed as along the border fence for security reasons and also act as a fire-break.</p> <p>For the location of the main access road (external) (1,781 ha), see Plan No.1 indicating the main development area. (calculated at : 1781m x 10m = 17810m² = 1,781 ha)</p> <p>Internal roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monitoring Roads: Dimensions – 22670 m x 6 m; Area – 136020 m² / 13.602 ha b. Internal Roads: Dimensions – 64715.6 m x 6 m; Area – 388293.6 m² / 38.82936 ha
<p><u>GN R. 985: Item 10:</u> <i>The development 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 m³</i> <i>a. Northern Cape</i> <i>iii. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority</i></p>	<p>The construction of diesel tank storage facilities (bunded) as part of the lay down site. (Capacity 30 000L) for generator.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) dated June 2019 at:

Farm Name: Remainder of Portion 4 of 134 Brypaal

21 SG Code:

C	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	4
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Preferred site (Corner Co-ordinates)	Latitude	Longitude
A	29°11' 26.40"S	20°23'53.12"E
B	29° 11' 56.29"S	20°24'30.46"E
C	29° 12' 34.64"S	20°23' 6.63"E
D	29° 11' 59.79"S	20°22'22.23"E
E	29° 11' 43.05"S	20°22'49.92"E
F	29° 12' 2.79"S	20°23'14.23"E
G	29° 11' 51.72"S	20°23'40.44"E
H	29° 11' 35.89"S	20°23'20.45"E
I	29° 11' 38.09"S	20° 23' 46.62"E
J	29° 12' 6.07"S	20° 23' 38.54"E
K	29° 12' 0.73"S	20° 22' 46.91"E

	Latitude	Longitude
Onsite Substation/ Transformation substation	29° 11' 50.30"S	20° 24.10' 17.96"E

Access Road	Latitude	Longitude
Start	29°10'50.16"S	20°22'51.95"E
Middle	29°11'10.83"S	20°23'15.01"E
End	29°11'31.59"S	20°23'38.19"E

- for the proposed the proposed development of a 100MW PV solar power facility on the farm Brypaal, within the Kai !Garib Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province hereafter referred to as "the property".

The Brypaal Solar Facility will comprise of the following:

- Photovoltaic modules with a generation capacity of 100 Megawatts (MW)
- 46 Central Inverters – 2200KVA and 46 Transformers inside inverter containers

- PV Array 1: 61ha
- PV Array 2: 117ha
- Mounting Structures
- Combiner Boxes;
- Meteorological stations;
- Power Plant Controllers;
- A 51 panel 33kV Metalclad Switchgear Board
- Two 100MVA 132/33KV Power Transformers
- Two 132kV transformer bays consisting of 132kV outdoor SF6 circuit breaker, multi-core current transformers, isolators, earth switches and surge arrestors
- One 10 000L Water Reservoir (Tank)
- Building Block:
 - House the switchgear complete with an off-board protection and control room.
 - Installation of 33 kV power cables from the new transformer bays to the new kV switchgear incomers in the switchgear room.
 - Operations and Management Building
 - Office with ablution facilities
 - Solar Resource Measuring Station
- Laydown areas (One (01) Permeant and Three (03) Temporary)
- Access, Monitoring and Internal Roads
- Fencing
- Gate
- Culverts

Technical details for the proposed facility:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	District Municipality – ZF Mgawu District Municipality– Kai ! Garib Local Municipality Ward number 9
Farm name and SG 21 Digit Codes	Remainder of Portion 4 of farm 134 Brypaal C03600000000013400004
Height of PV panels	Height of PV Panels: 1.96m

Area of PV Array	PV Array 1 – 61 ha PV Array 2 – 117 ha
Number of Inverters	46
Area occupied by inverter / transformer substations / substations	Total area per Inverter Container: 1104 m ² (0,1104 ha). Total area obtained by all Inverter Containers: 50 784 m ² (5,0784 ha). Transformation Substation: 52500 m ² (5,25 ha)
Capacity of on-site substation	<p>The substation will consist of two fully equipped 132kV transformer feeder bays. Eskom will be responsible for building the switching station for the loop-in and loop-out to their 132kV line. Power plant 33kV Indoor Equipment.</p> <p>The output power from the inverters at Brypaal facility is at 4,1000V AC. The power will then be stepped up to 33kV via each inverter's local 4,1000V/33kV outdoor oil type transformer, which is housed inside the central inverter station container. The power is then evacuated to the Brypaal substation common 33kV bus.</p> <p>At the substation the voltage is further stepped up from 33kV to 132kV and fed to an Eskom switching station, which further distributes to the Eskom Grid. The substation will be a 100MVA Category C (by Transmission Grid-Code compliance specification) and will operate at a nominal voltage of 132kV at 50Hz.</p>
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	<p>Construction Phase :Permanent Laydown Area – 0.79 ha</p> <p>Temporary Laydown Area 1 – 1 ha</p> <p>Temporary Laydown Area 2 – 1.14 ha</p> <p>Temporary Laydown Area 3 – 1 ha</p>

	Operational Phase: Permanent Laydown Area – 0.79 ha
Area occupied by buildings	Building Block: Dimensions - 60 m x 60 m; Area – 0,36 ha
Length of internal roads	64.71 km
Width of internal roads	Max 3.5m
Proximity to grid connection	885m - 1006m to the existing Eskom transmission 4,1000kVA infrastructure
Height of fencing	3m
Type of fencing	Mesh fencing (e.g. clearvu type) that has mesh at bottom (ground-level)

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed development of a 100MW PV Solar Power Facility on the Farm Brypaal as described above is hereby approved.
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 five (05) 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.
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. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 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. The layout map and Environmental Sensitivity Map for the proposed Brypaal Solar Project, appended to the final EIAR dated 2 June 2019 as Appendix C is hereby approved.
14. The EMPr compiled by Boscia Environmental solutions C.C and appended with the final EIAR dated June 2019 is approved and must be implemented.
15. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
16. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR be discovered.
17. Furthermore, a shapefile of the approved development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department within two months from the date of this decision. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp; .shx; .dbf; .prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avl and/or the .lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title. The shape file must be submitted to:

Postal Address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Physical address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria

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For Attention: Mr Muhammad Essop
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406
Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

18. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 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.
19. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. 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.
21. 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 GN R.982. 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.
22. 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

23. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced independent 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.
 - 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.

- 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 23.4. 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

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the approved EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.
27. 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.
28. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 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.
29. 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

30. 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

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

Site closure and decommissioning

32. 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

33. A pre-construction survey of the final development footprint must be conducted by a qualified floral specialist to ascertain the identity and the exact number of individual protected species affected by the proposed development. Prior to the commencement of construction, a rescue and rehabilitation operation for these species which could survive translocation must be conducted.
34. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works and operational activities. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
35. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants occurring within a ten (10) kilometre radius of the development site must be utilised.
36. Periodical inspection of panels to remove and discourage avifaunal nesting is encouraged. Any nest sites must be removed by a qualified avifaunal specialist.
37. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities must be removed to a safe location by a qualified person.
38. Watercourses outside the approved footprint/layout must be treated as "no-go" areas and demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into these areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO, except for rehabilitation work in these areas.

39. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, SAHRA must be informed and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources to be made.
40. 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.
41. Any solid waste, which will not be recycled, 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). No waste material may be left on site after construction.
42. The recommendations of the EAP in the EIAR dated June 2019 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to.

General

43. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 43.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 43.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
44. 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: 25/09/2019



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

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 11 June 2019.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated June 2019.
- c) The comments received from the Department of Agriculture Forest and Fisheries, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, South African Heritage Resources Agency and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAr dated June 2019.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated June 2019 and as appears below:

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 motivation for the need and desirability of the development.
- c) The EIAr dated June 2019 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated June 2019 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for public involvement.

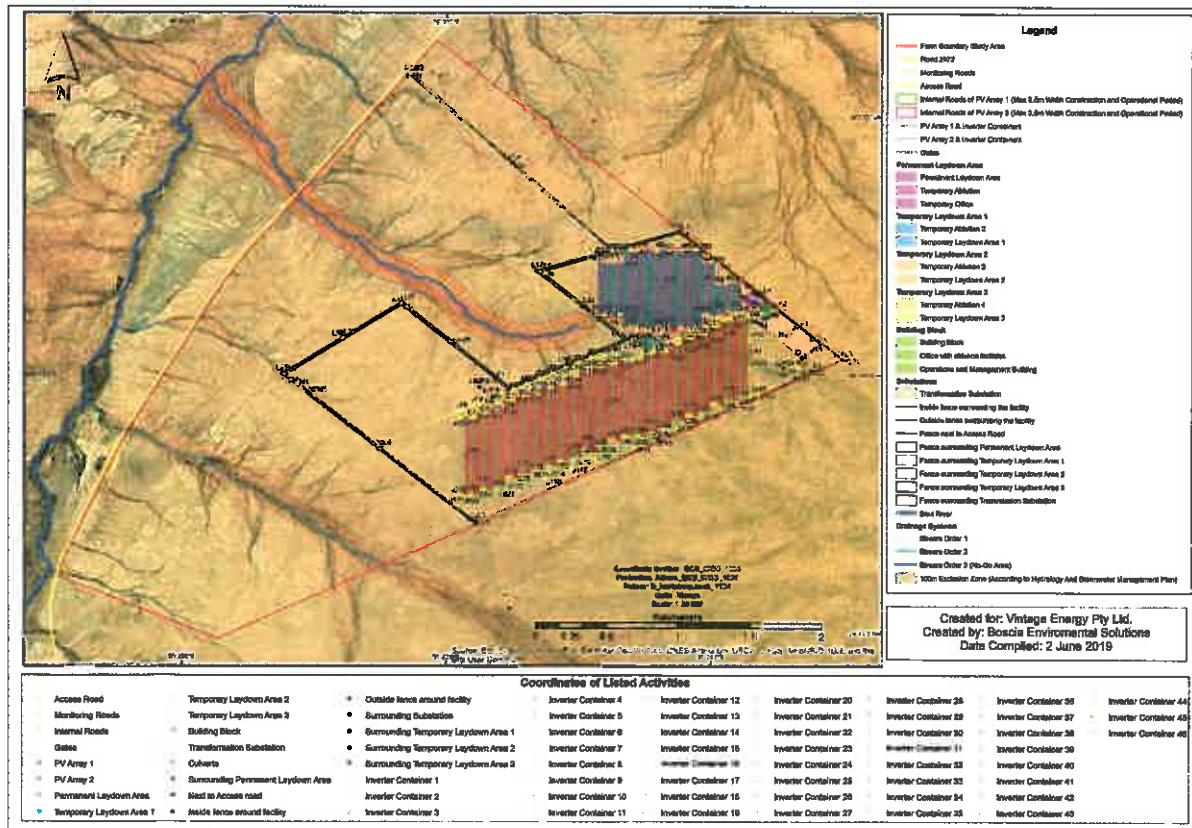
3. Findings

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

- The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAr dated June 2019 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- The information contained in the EIAr dated June 2019 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAr 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.

Locality Map



MS