



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2083

Enquiries: Mr Lunga Dlova

Telephone: (012) 399 8524 E-mail: LDlova@dfpe.gov.za

Mr. Dick Berlijn
Boitumelo Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 785553
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number : +27 (011) 500 3680
Cellphone Number : +27(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 DEVELOPMENT OF A 150MW BOITUMELO SOLAR POWER PLANT AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 4 OF THE FARM HOUTHAAALDOORNS 2, WITHIN THE DITSBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH WEST 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

MJ

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@dfpe.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@dfpe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



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

Date: 12/04/2022

cc:	Ms Lisa Opperman	Environamics CC	Email: lisa@environamics.co.za
	Ouma Skosana	North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism	E-mail: oskosana@nwpg.gov.za
	Mogapane Abel Metswamere	Ditsobotla Local Municipality	Email: records@gmail.com





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 development of a 150MW Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in the North West Province.

Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2083
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Boitumelo Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	<u>Solar Power Plant:</u> Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2 <u>Power Line Corridor (Options 1 – technically preferred):</u> Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2 Portion 2 of Farm Zamekornst 4 Portion 23 of Farm Houthaalbomen 31 Portion 10 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27 Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27 Remaining Extent of Farm Priem 30 Portion 25 of Farm Houthaalboomen 31; on Ward 16 within Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, North West Province.

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 –

BOITUMELO SOLAR POWER PLANT (RF) (PTY) LTD
(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr. Dick Berlijn
Boitumelo Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 785553
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number: +27 (011) 500 3680
Cellphone Number: +27(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:

<p>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 11(i) <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity - (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</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 power line (132 kV) and an on-site HV/MV substation (130 MVA). For the preferred power line corridor, the power line will be constructed in a ~8.17km long and 100 m wide corridor. It is expected that generation from the facility will tie in with the Eskom Watershed 275/132/88 MTS substation.</p>
<p>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 24(ii) <i>"The development of a road (ii) with a 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 of the solar power plant will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width.</p>
<p>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 28(ii) <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 (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	<p>The portions of the affected farm have 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 280ha in extent within the assessed 300ha EIA footprint.</p>
<p>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 56(ii) <i>"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..."</i></p>	<p>The existing access road to the affected property does not have a reserve and will be widened by more than 6 metres.</p>

Activity description	
<p><u>GN R325, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 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.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to 150 megawatts electricity using a renewable resource.</p>
<p><u>GN R325, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 15</u> <i>“The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.”</i></p>	<p>In terms of vegetation type the preferred site falls within the Carletonville Dolomite Grassland which is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) 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 280ha in extent within the assessed 300ha EIA footprint.</p>
<p><u>GN R324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 12 (h)(iv)</u> <i>“The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation... .. (h) In the North West (iv) within critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed development is located in the North West province. Portions of the power line routes cross over CBA2 (option 1). It is expected that approximately 10 000 square metres of indigenous vegetation will need to be removed as part of the linear activities associated with the power line (option 1).</p>

As described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) dated December 2021 at:

Farm name & portion:

Solar Power Plant:

- Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldooms 2

Power Line Corridor (Options 1 – technically preferred):

- Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldooms 2
- Portion 2 of Farm Zamekomst 4
- Portion 23 of Farm Houthaalbomen 31
- Portion 10 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27

- Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27
- Remaining Extent of Farm Priem 30
- Portion 25 of Farm Houthaalboomen 31

Ward: 16
 Town: Lichtenburg
 Local Municipality: Ditsobotla Local Municipality
 District Municipality: Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality
 Province: North West Province.

21 Digit Surveyor General Code:

Solar Power Plant:	Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2 - T0IP0000000000200004
Power Line Corridor (Options 1):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2 - T0IP0000000000200004 • Portion 2 of Farm Zamekomst 4 - T0IP0000000000400002 • Portion 23 of Farm Houthaalbomen 31 - T0IP00000000003100023 • Portion 10 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27 - T0IP00000000002700010 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Farm Lichtenburg Town and Townlands 27 - T0IP00000000002700001 • Remaining Extent of Farm Priem 30 - T0IP00000000003000000 • Portion 25 of Farm Houthaalboomen 31 - T0IP00000000003100025

Project EIA Footprint Coordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	25°59'27.26"S	26° 6'41.97"E
B	26° 0'27.65"S	26° 6'54.94"E
C	26° 0'27.82"S	26° 5'34.62"E
D	25°59'59.61"S	26° 5'30.57"E
Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	26° 0'20.74"S	26° 5'47.76"E
B	26° 0'20.75"S	26° 5'54.89"E
C	26° 0'27.16"S	26° 5'54.89"E
D	26° 0'27.19"S	26° 5'47.73"E

MJ

Substation	Footprint	Latitude	Longitude
A		26° 0'24.08"S	26° 5'42.97"E
B		26° 0'24.13"S	26° 5'46.53"E
C		26° 0'27.29"S	26° 5'46.54"E
D		26° 0'27.34"S	26° 5'42.94"E
Connection Line Coordinates (Step-up Substation - Collector Substation)		Latitude	Longitude
1		26° 0'25.44"S	26° 5'42.95"E
2		26° 0'26.45"S	26° 5'37.09"E
3		26° 0'36.21"S	26° 5'38.61"E
4		26° 2'40.17"S	26° 6'38.68"E
5		26° 2'37.66"S	26° 6'44.50"E
Collector Substation	Footprint	Latitude	Longitude
A		26° 2'32.72"S	26° 6'46.93"E
B		26° 2'36.90"S	26° 6'49.34"E
C		26° 2'38.97"S	26° 6'44.87"E
D		26° 2'34.55"S	26° 6'42.48"E
Connection Line Corridor Coordinates (Option 1)		Latitude	Longitude
1		26° 2'33.58"S	26° 6'44.90"E
2		26° 2'18.09"S	26° 7'21.45"E
3		26° 3'8.16"S	26° 7'31.99"E
4		26° 3'8.98"S	26° 7'33.87"E
5		26° 5'15.87"S	26° 8'29.89"E
6		26° 5'14.05"S	26° 8'38.61"E
7		26° 5'20.19"S	26° 8'51.72"E
8		26° 5'30.52"S	26° 8'50.36"E
9		26° 5'39.18"S	26° 8'45.62"E
10		26° 5'29.05"S	26° 8'26.18"E
11		26° 5'18.73"S	26° 8'25.53"E
12		26° 3'15.41"S	26° 7'30.07"E

MS

13	26° 3'10.19"S	26° 7'28.89"E
14	26° 3'8.89"S	26° 7'27.08"E
15	26° 2'25.81"S	26° 7'18.04"E
16	26° 2'39.19"S	26° 6'47.62"E

- for the development of a 150MW Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldoors 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the North West Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The authorisation for Boitumelo Solar Power Plant would include the following key infrastructure and components:

- 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 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 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 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. Whilst Boitumelo 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 Watershed 275/132/88 MTS Substation. The Project will inject up to 100MW into the National Grid. The installed capacity will be approximately 150MW. One route is proposed from the onsite substation to the collector station situated on the affected property to the south of the SPP.

Whereas two possible connection corridor routes are proposed from the collector station to the Watershed 275/132/88 MTS Substation. Within the technically preferred corridor (south east of farm) a new line of approximately 8.17km will be constructed to the Watershed MTS or alternatively, one of the existing Eskom lines will be upgraded. For the alternative corridor (south west of the farm) a new line of approximately 10.17km will be constructed to the Watershed MTS. The proposed power line was

assessed within a 100m wide corridor and where existing lines are located, approximately 150m. The area surrounding the Watershed MTS Substation was also assessed.

- Electrical reticulation network – An internal electrical reticulation network will be required and will be laid ~2-4m 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 (~200m²);
 - Switch gear and relay room (~400m²);
 - Staff lockers and changing room (~200m²); and
 - Security control (~60m²).
- Battery storage – Up to 500 MW Battery Storage Facility with a maximum height of 8m and a maximum volume of 1740 m³ of batteries and associated operational, safety and control infrastructure.
- Roads – Access will be obtained from the R505 Regional Road onto a proposed new gravel access road situated adjacent the development footprint where direct access will be obtained to the facility. An internal site road network will also be required 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 farm. Fencing with a height of 2.5 meters will be used.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of a 150MW Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldooms 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the North West 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.
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. The site layout plans as attached as Appendix I - Maps of the EIAr dated December 2021 is approved.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the EIAr dated December 2021 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
15. 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.
16. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. 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

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 the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must

M.S

- 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 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.
 22. 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

23. 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.
 - 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 EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
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 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.
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. 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 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.

M.S

Specific conditions

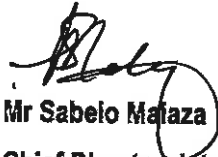
33. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
34. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.
35. No pylons must be placed within the delineated watercourses and the riparian habitat; however, the pylons may span these features.
36. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs. Reclamation activities shall be undertaken according to the EMPr.
37. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.
38. Cleared alien vegetation must not be dumped on adjacent intact vegetation during clearing but must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area.
39. Internal access roads must be located to minimize stream crossings. All structures crossing streams must be located and constructed so that they do not decrease channel stability or increase water velocity.
40. It is recommended that a heritage walk – through be undertaken for the South West corridor power line route.
41. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).
42. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the SAHRA/PHRA must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources.

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: 12/04/2022



Mr Sabelo Majaza

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 23 July 2021.
- b) The information contained in the EIA dated December 2021.
- c) The comments received from Interested and affected Parties (I&APs) as included in the EIA dated December 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIA dated December 2021 and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIA dated December 2021 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Feasibility Geotechnical Investigation Report	SMEC South Africa (Pty) Ltd.	1 June 2021
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	AGES (Pty) Ltd	October 2021
Avifaunal Assessment	Agreenco Environmental Projects (Pty) Ltd	October 2021
Visual Impact Assessment	Phala Environmental Consultants	May 2021
Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	J A van Schalkwyk (D Litt et Phil)	July 2021
Paleontological Heritage Report	Natura Viva cc	May 2021
Social Impact Assessment	Phala Environmental Consultants	May 2021
Traffic Impact Study	BVI Consulting Engineers Western Cape (Pty) Ltd	October 2021
Agricultural Compliance Statement	Johann Lanz	4 October 2021
Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) - For the development and expansion for overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure. - Substation infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity	Environamics CC	December 2021
Environmental Management Programme	Environamics CC	December 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 EIAr dated December 2021 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The location of the construction and operation of the 150MW Boitumelo Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure on Portion 4 of the farm Houthaaldooms 2, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality in Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in the North West Province.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated December 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 EIAr dated December 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 EIAr dated December 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) 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.
