



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2087

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Mr. Dick Berlijn
Springbok 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 SPRINGBOK PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMMERCIAL ELECTRICITY GENERATION ON AN IDENTIFIED SITE LOCATED ON THE FARM WELTEVREDE NO. 638 WITHIN MATJHABENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, LEJWELEPUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 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 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.

MS.

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@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



Ms Millicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 25/04/2022.

cc:	Ms Lisa Opperman	Environamics CC	Email: lisa@environamics.co.za
	Sydney Wigget	North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism	E-mail: sydcar@global.co.za
	Grace Mkhosana	Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	E-mail: mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za
	M.F. Lepheana	Matjhabeng Local Municipality	Email: tshidi.lenong@matjhabeng.co.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 development of a 150MW Springbok Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure for the purpose of commercial electricity generation on an identified site located on the Farm Weltevrede No. 638 within Matjhabeng Local Municipality in the Free State Province

Lejweleputswa District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2087
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	<i>Solar Power Plant:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm Weltevrede No. 638 <i>Power Line Corridor</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm Weltevrede No. 638• Portion 5 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330• Portion 21 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330• Portion 6 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 <i>- in ward 4 within Matjhabeng Local Municipality in Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province.</i>

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

SPRINGBOK SOLAR POWER PLANT (RF) (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr. Dick Berlijn

Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 785553

SANDTON

2146

Telephone Number : +27 (011) 500 3680

Cellphone Number : +27(074) 248 8488

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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>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 11(i)</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 photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity of 132 kilovolts outside an urban area. The proposed power line and on-site facility substation will each have a capacity of up to 132kV.</p>
<p><u>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 12(ii)(a)(c)</u> <i>"The development of (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; (a) within a watercourse or (c) within 32 meters of a watercourse measured from the edge of a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The presence of wetlands located within the grid connection corridor which will have to be crossed by the service road associated with the power line infrastructure for operation and maintenance purposes.</p>
<p><u>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 19</u> <i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The presence of wetlands located within the grid connection corridor which will have to be crossed by the service road associated with the power line infrastructure for operation and maintenance purposes. The construction of the associated service road will require the infilling of material of ~11 cubic meters into the wetlands.</p>
<p><u>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 24(ii)</u> <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 will not have a reserve and will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width.</p>
<p><u>GN R327, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 28(ii)</u> <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</i></p>	<p>The farm has been previously used for agricultural purposes and the property will be re-zoned to "special". The development footprint of the solar power plant will be 280ha in extent.</p>

Activity number	Activity description
<p><i>area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.”</i></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 does not have a reserve and will need to be widened by more than 6 metres.</p>
<p>GN R325, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 1 <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 from solar energy.</p>
<p>GN R325, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 15 <i>“The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.”</i></p>	<p>The site falls within the Highveld Alluvial Vegetation which is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) as least threatened. A section of the grid connection corridor is located within the Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland which is endangered. 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.</p>
<p>GN R324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 4(b)(i)(ee) <i>“The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres within (b) the Free State, (i) outside urban areas, (ee) within critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.”</i></p>	<p>A service road with a width between 4 and 5 metres associated with the power line infrastructure will be constructed and a section of the grid connection corridor is located within a CBA 1 area.</p>

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 10 (b)(hh)</u></p> <p><i>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 (hh) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed development will need to develop infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (diesel and oils) in containers with a capacity exceeding 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres. The project is located within the Free State Province and the site borders on the Doring River. Therefore, the development will take place within 100 m of the edge of a watercourse or wetland.</p>
<p><u>GN R324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 12 (b)(i)(ii)(vi)</u></p> <p><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 Free State province and portions of the site has not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years and therefore indigenous vegetation is present on the site. A section of the grid connection corridor is located within the Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland which is endangered. The site borders on the Doring River and an exoreic depression is located in the proposed power line corridor. Therefore, more than 300 square meters of indigenous vegetation will be removed which is located within 100m of a watercourse and within an endangered ecosystem. The development footprint of the solar power plant will be 280 ha.</p>
<p><u>GN R324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 14(ii)(a)(c)(b)(i)(ff)</u></p> <p><i>“The development of (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more, where such development occurs (a) within a watercourse or (c) within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, (b) within the Free State, (i) outside urban areas within (ff) critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic</i></p>	<p>The presence of wetlands located within the grid connection corridor which will have to be crossed by the service road associated with the power line infrastructure for operation and maintenance purposes. A section of the power line corridor is located within an area classified as CBA 1.</p>

Activity number	Activity description
<i>biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans."</i>	
<p><u>GN R324, 08 December 2014 (as amended on 07 April 2017) – Activity 18 (b)(i)(hh)</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (b) in the Free State (i) outside urban areas and (hh) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland."</i></p>	<p>The existing access road to the site will need to be widened by more than 4 metres. The project is located within the Free State Province and outside urban areas. The site borders on the Doring River.</p>

As described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated 13 December 2021 at:

Farm name & portion:

Solar Power Plant:

- Farm Weltevrede No. 638

Power Line Corridor

- Farm Weltevrede No. 638
- Portion 5 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330
- Portion 21 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330
- Portion 6 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330

Ward: 04
 Town: near Welkom/Virginia
 Local Municipality: Matjhabeng Local Municipality
 District Municipality: Lejweleputswa District Municipality
 Province: Free State Province

21 Digit Surveyor General Code:

Springbok Power Plant	<p><u>Solar Power Plant:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Weltevrede No. 638 - F03300000000063800000 <p><u>Power Line Corridor</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm Weltevrede No. 638 - F03300000000063800000 • Portion 5 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F03300000000033000005
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portion 21 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F03300000000033000021 • Portion 6 of the farm Doorn Rivier No. 330 - F03300000000033000006
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Project EIA Footprint Coordinates:

Point	Latitude	Longitude	
Project site	A	28°10'48.12"S	26°48'36.84"E
	B	28°11'40.47"S	26°49'15.45"E
	C	28°11'55.58"S	26°49'22.14"E
	D	28°11'56.51"S	26°49'19.24"E
	E	28°11'55.62"S	26°49'18.81"E
	F	28°11'56.78"S	26°49'15.42"E
	G	28°11'59.80"S	26°49'16.68"E
	H	28°11'58.70"S	26°49'20.11"E
	I	28°11'56.88"S	26°49'19.38"E
	J	28°11'55.88"S	26°49'22.30"E
	K	28°12'7.53"S	26°49'27.43"E
	L	28°12'9.06"S	26°49'27.57"E
	M	28°12'19.64"S	26°49'3.83"E
	N	28°12'17.20"S	26°48'52.95"E
	O	28°12'24.76"S	26°48'33.33"E
	P	28°11'57.66"S	26°48'17.64"E
Q	28°11'50.10"S	26°48'28.95"E	
R	28°11'12.09"S	26°48'6.89"E	
S	28°11'10.94"S	26°48'9.48"E	
Proposed Access			
A	28°10'57.91"S	26°48'44.60"E	
B	28°11'39.99"S	26°49'15.54"E	
100m wide Power Line Corridor (Option 1)			
A	28°10'54.60"S	26°48'31.26"E	
B	28°10'52.96"S	26°48'29.55"E	
C	28° 9'36.42"S	26°50'0.81"E	
D	28° 9'30.51"S	26°50'4.89"E	
E	28° 9'25.57"S	26°49'48.08"E	

F	28° 9'32.57"S	26°49'45.24"E
G	28° 9'35.73"S	26°49'56.58"E
H	28°10'53.10"S	26°48'24.44"E
I	28°10'56.80"S	26°48'28.73"E
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	Latitude	Longitude
1	28°10'57.22"S	26°48'28.41"E
2	28°11'3.61"S	26°48'35.53"E
3	28°11'3.54"S	26°48'20.75"E
Substation corner coordinates Option 1 and Option 2	Latitude	Longitude
A	28°10'54.60"S	26°48'31.34"E
B	28°10'58.21"S	26°48'35.31"E
C	28°11'0.36"S	26°48'32.78"E
D	28°10'56.77"S	26°48'28.83"E

- for the development of a 150MW Springbok Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure for the purpose of commercial electricity generation on an identified site located on the Farm Weltevrede No. 638 within Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Lejweleputswa District Municipality in the Free State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The Springbok Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd will 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 Springbok 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 Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation or to any of the existing 132Kv lines. The Project will inject up to 100MW into the National Grid. The installed capacity will be approximately 150MW.

The possible connection line route proposed to the Theseus MTS 400/132/22kV Substation.

Option 1 (preferred) is approximately 5.25km. The proposed power line was assessed within a 100m wide corridor. The area surrounding the 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 via the S239 gravel road off the R730 Regional Route. 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 Springbok Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure for the purpose of commercial electricity generation on an identified site located on the Farm Weltevrede No. 638 within Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Lejweleputswa District Municipality in the Free State Province, is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.

3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
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.
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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 13 December 2021 is approved.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity submitted as part of the EIAr dated 13 December 2021 is approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity 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 Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAr be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

18. The EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity 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 and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. The updated EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity 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.
21. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity 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 and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity 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 and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, 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 and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity 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 and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, 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 and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity
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.

Specific conditions

33. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.

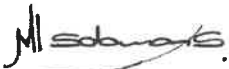
34. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas.
35. No pylons must be placed within the delineated watercourses and the riparian habitat; 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 biodiversity walk-through and obtaining of the relevant fauna and flora permits must be undertaken prior to construction.
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 and Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity, 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: 25/04/2022.



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 application form received on 26 July 2021.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated 13 December 2021.
- c) The comments received from Interested and affected Parties (I&APs) as included in the EIAr dated 13 December 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr dated 13 December 2021 and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated 13 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	September 2021
Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment, Wetland Delineation and Assessment	AGES (Pty) Ltd	September 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

Generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPR) for the development and expansion of substation and an overhead power line for the transmission and distribution of electricity	Environamics CC	N/A
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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 13 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 Springbok Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure for the purpose of commercial electricity generation on an identified site located on the Farm Weltevrede No. 638 within Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Lejweleputswa District Municipality in the Free State Province.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated 13 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 13 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 13 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.

MS.

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.

js



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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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. Devinagle 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