



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998

Enquiries: Mr Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 **E-mail:** HAlberts@henviroment.gov.za

Mr Jean-Paul de Villiers
Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Unit C-24/25
Olive Grove Industrial Estate
Ou Paardevelei Road
SOMERSET WEST
7130

Telephone Number: (021) 852 7333

Email Address: jp.devilliers@soventix.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Mr De Villiers

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 983/984 FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE 225MW SOLAR PV PLANT ON SEVERAL PORTIONS OF FARMS IN THE HANOVER DISTRICT, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, 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 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 decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R.993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

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.

M.S

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

Mr Z Hassam, 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, 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: 16/04/2018

cc:	Justin Bowers	Ecoleges Environmental Consultants	Email: justin@ecoleges.co.za
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environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

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

The proposed development of a 225MW solar PV facility on several portions of farms in the Hanover district, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province

Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality

Application Reference Number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/998
Last amended:	First issue
Applicant:	Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	Remainder of Farm Goedehoop 26 C, Portion 6 of Leuwe Fountain 27 C, Remainder of Farm Riet Fountain 39 C, Portion 1 of Farm Riet Fountain 39C, Remainder 6 of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C, Portion 1 of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C, Portion 4 of Taaibosch Fontein 41 C, Portion 1 of Farm Kafferspoort 56 C; Emthanjeni Local Municipality; Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality; Northern Cape 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.

M. J

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, 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 –

SOVENTIX SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**) with the following contact details –

Mr Jean-Paul de Villiers
Unit C-24/25
Olive Grove Industrial Estate
Ou Paardevelei Road
SOMERSET WEST
7130

Telephone Number: (021) 852 7333
Fax Number: (021) 852 5089
Cell Number: (082) 550 6672
Email Address: jp.devilliers@soventix.com

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 19:</u></p> <p><i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) the seashore; or</i></p> <p><i>(iii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater."</i></p>	<p>The current overhead Eskom transmission lines that the solar PV plant will feed into, run within an expansive drainage system, requiring limited work within this system to enable the loop-in, loop-out overhead transmission lines, founded in concrete footings within the watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 27:</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of '1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-</i></p> <p><i>(i) The undertaking of a linear activity; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>Vehicle service tracks will be created between the panel arrays as well as around the perimeter of the facility on the inside of the fence that will require limited vegetation removal. Cleared footprints will also be required for the substation and powerline footings, all of which will collectively exceed 1 hectare.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 28:</u></p> <p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i></p> <p><i>(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the</i></p>	<p>The land use is currently agriculture, and will retain in part its agricultural use for livestock grazing, but will convert significant sections for commercial solar PV for a fixed term.</p>

total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare"	
GN R. 984 Item 1: "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more."	The solar PV installation will be 225MW installed in three connected and integrated modules of 75MWac.
GN R. 984 Item 9: "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex"	One set of overhead Eskom powerlines are 400kV and the tie-in from the substation to the Eskom overhead powerlines will thus need to be 400kV. Eskom determines which of the overhead lines the project will feed into, one of which is more than 2km away from the proposed position of the substation.

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated December 2017 at:

21 SG Codes:

C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	0	6
C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	4
C	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	1

- for the proposed development of a 225MW solar PV facility on several portions of farms in the Hanover district, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The following is proposed to be constructed on site:

- 225MW PV plant;
- Powerlines;
- Transformer and inverter;
- Access roads;
- Buildings;
- Fencing; and
- Sewerage treatment plant.

Technical details for the facility:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	Several portions of farms in the Hanover District
Site access	Existing roads will be used for main access, which may need to be enlarged to allow large equipment to access the site during construction
Export capacity	225MW
Proposed technology	Solar PV Plant of PV panels using polycrystalline solar module technology
Structure height	2.5 meters

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of a 225MW solar PV facility on several portions of farms in the Hanover district, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province 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 environmental 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 environmental 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 environmental authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. 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 environmental authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
8. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of 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.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. 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

12. A shapefile of the approved development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department within two months from the date of the 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

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

13. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that was integrated as part of the EIAr dated December 2017, is approved.
14. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
15. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAr be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

16. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 23 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
17. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
18. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of 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.
19. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of 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.
20. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

21. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced 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.

21.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.

21.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.

21.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.

21.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

22. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
23. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
24. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.
25. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
26. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
27. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

28. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. 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

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

Site closure and decommissioning

30. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

Specific conditions

31. A rehabilitation plan which will minimise the impacts to agricultural land must be developed and implemented.
32. Mitigation of site TS05 must be carried out by a suitably qualified Archaeologist after obtaining the relevant permit from SAHRA.
33. If any heritage resources of archaeological or paleontological significance are discovered during construction activities, construction must cease and a Phase 2 rescue operation must be undertaken by a qualified specialist. The findings must be submitted to SAHRA and should they have implications to the layout or mitigation measures, these must be submitted to this Department with SAHRA's recommendations for review and consideration.
34. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint.
35. Areas outside of the development footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.

36. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where powerlines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g. grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams). The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged. Additional areas of high sensitivity along the preferred alignment must also be identified by the avifaunal specialist for the fitment of anti-collision devices. These devices must be according to Eskom's Transmission and EWT's Guidelines.
37. A pre-construction survey of the final development footprint must be conducted by a qualified floral specialist to identify 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.
38. Before the clearing of the site, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be made available on request.
39. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs.
40. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.
41. 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.
42. Anti-erosion measures such as silt fences must be installed in disturbed areas.
43. Cleared alien vegetation must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area. Once clearing is completed, they must be moved to a licenced waste disposal facility.
44. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation. Where waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).
45. The holder of this authorisation must take note that no temporary site camps will be allowed outside the footprint of the development area as the establishment of such structures might trigger a listed activity as defined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
46. Foundations and trenches must be backfilled with originally excavated materials as much as possible. Excess excavation materials must be disposed of only in approved areas or, if suitable, stockpiled for use in reclamation activities.

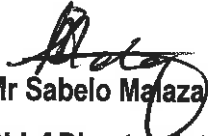
47. Borrow materials must be obtained only from authorized and permitted sites. Permits must be kept on site by the ECO.
48. Dust suppression techniques must be implemented on all exposed surfaces during the construction phase. Such measures may include wet suppression, chemical stabilisation, the use of a wind fence, covering surfaces with straw chippings and re-vegetation of open areas.
49. The holder of this authorisation must reduce visual impacts during construction by minimising areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques and restoring exposed soil as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.
50. Any vegetation clearing that needs to take place as part of maintenance activities (during the operational phase of the approved development), must be done in accordance to the approved EMPr.
51. Monitoring for erosion must take place to ensure that no erosion problems are occurring at the site as a result of the roads and other infrastructure. All erosion problems observed must be rectified as soon as possible as outlined in the erosion management plan within the EMPr.
52. The holder of the authorisation must comply with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983) Articles 7.1 and (3) b of Regulation 9238.
53. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities must be removed to a safe location by a qualified person.
54. The recommendations of the EAP in the EIAR dated December 2017 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.

General

55. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 55.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 55.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 55.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
56. 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: 16/04/2008



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 information contained in the application form submitted to this Department in March 2017.
- b) The information contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated December 2017.
- c) The comments received during the Scoping and EIA phases of the application and submitted as part of the EIAR dated December 2017.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAR dated December 2017 and the EMPr submitted as part of the EIAR dated December 2017.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained in the EIAR dated December 2017.
- f) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

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) Details provided of the qualifications of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).
- b) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- c) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid in terms of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) as required by the Department of Energy.
- d) The EIAR dated December 2017 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAR.
- e) The description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity.
- f) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAR dated December 2017 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.

- g) The cumulative impacts the proposed development will have in the area due to other renewable energy facilities being authorised.
- h) 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 -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAR dated December 2017 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) 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.
- c) The information contained in the EIAR dated December 2017 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the 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 activity 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 activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.