

Your reference:

Our reference: 10777 – Mierdam Amend

Date: 16 November 2012

Dear Interested and Affected Party

NOTIFICATION OF AN AMENDMENT APPLICATION TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PLANT ON MIERDAM FARM NEAR PRIESKA, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

- DEA Ref. No: 12/12/20/2320/2 & NEAS Ref. No: DEA/EIA/AMEND/0000033/2012

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Mierdam (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as Mainstream) obtained an Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the construction of a 40MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility on Mierdam Farm near Prieska in the Northern Cape Province (DEA Reference 12/12/20/2320/2) on 06 September 2012.

Originally, Mainstream proposed a 40MW PV facility in order to allow the electricity generated at the facility to be fed directly into an existing power line traversing the site. Subsequently, Eskom advised that the electricity generated at the proposed PV facility would need to be fed into Kronos Substation via a new power line. As such, it is no longer required that the electricity output of the facility be limited to 40MW and Mainstream are proposing to increase the output to 75MW - the maximum capacity set by the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP).

In terms of section 39 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations promulgated on 18 June 2010, the holder of an EA can apply to the relevant competent authority for an amendment of the EA. As such, SiVEST (the independent environmental assessment practitioner) submitted an application for an amendment of the EA to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) on 08 October 2012. In response, the DEA issued a letter dated 02 November 2012 advising SiVEST that the proposed increase in the output of the PV facility is a substantive amendment. SiVEST was requested to assess the impacts associated with the proposed increase and submit a report to the DEA for decision making. It was also required that a public participation process, as referred to in section 54 of the EIA Regulations, be conducted to ensure that all Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) are informed of the proposed amendment and given the opportunity to comment.

This letter serves to bring the proposed amendment application under the attention of I&APs, stakeholders and relevant organs of state. In terms of Regulation 54 of the EIA Regulations, an opportunity is being provided for I&APs, stakeholders and organs of state to submit written comments on the proposed amendment application.

Included herewith is a registration and comment form. By completing and submitting the accompanying registration and comment form, you will be registered as an I&AP on the project database.

We would like to thank you, in advance, for becoming part of the public participation process, and look forward to receiving your valuable comments on the proposed project.

Yours sincerely



Nicolene Venter
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PRACTITIONER