



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2257

Enquiries: Coenrad Agenbach

Telephone: (012) 399 9403 **E-mail:** CAgenbach@dff.gov.za

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

Telephone Number: (011) 500 3680
Email Address: berlijn@subsolar.co.za

PER E-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 JERSEY SOLAR POWER PLANT NEAR VENTERSDORP, 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 fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the Department's decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the EIA Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (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, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) which stipulates 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 abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (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 organ of state with interest in the matter within twenty (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.

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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: appealsdirectorate@dffe.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appealsdirectorate@dffe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 12/08/2023

cc:	Ms R Musetsho	JB Marks Local Municipality	E-mail: rmusethso@nwpg.gov.za
	Ms Ouma Skosana	North West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism	E-mail: oskosana@nwpg.gov.za
	Mr Tshepho Mamashela	Environamics CC	E-mail: tshepho@environamics.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 350MW JERSEY SOLAR POWER FACILITY NORTHEAST OF THE TOWN OF VENTERSDORP
WITHIN THE JB MARKS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/2/2257</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Jersey Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Portion 1 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70; Portion 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70; JB Marks Local Municipality; Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality; North West 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.

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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 –

JERSEY SOLAR POWER PLANT (RF) (PTY) LTD.

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

with the following contact details –

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

Tel: (011) 500 3680

Cell: (074) 248 8488

Email: 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:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11(i)</u></p> <p><i>The development of structures in the coastal public property where the development footprint is bigger than 50 square metres.</i></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>Activity 11(i) is triggered since 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 (132kV), an on-site HV/MV substation and switching station (132kV).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1 Activity 24(ii):</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road (ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters.</i></p>	<p>Activity 24(ii) is triggered as the internal roads will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width. The internal roads will be 6m in width and the perimeter road will be up to 12m in width.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 28 (ii):</u></p> <p><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>Activity 28(ii) is triggered as portions of the affected property have been used for grazing and the property will be re-zoned to “special” use for the proposed development. The development footprint of the solar power plant will be 600 hectares.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56 (ii):</u></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 6 m, or lengthening of a road by more than 1 km – (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres;</i></p>	<p>Activity 56 (ii) is triggered since the existing access to the affected property does not have a reserve and will need to be widened by more than 6 metres.</p>

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<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1</u></p> <p><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>Activity 1 is triggered since the proposed photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to 350 megawatts electricity through the use of a renewable resource.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15:</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation</i></p>	<p>In terms of vegetation type the 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 599ha in extent.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4(h)(vi):</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres within</i></p> <p><i>(h) the North West, and</i></p> <p><i>(vi) areas within 5 kilometres from protected areas identified in terms of NEMPAA or from a biosphere reserve.</i></p>	<p>Activity 4(h)(vi) is triggered as internal and perimeter access roads with a width of between 6 and 12 meters will be constructed and the site is located 5km from the Fred Coetzee Nature Reserve.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18(e)(i) (ee) 18(h)(v):</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 in</i></p> <p><i>(h) the North West</i></p> <p><i>(ii) areas within 5 kilometres from protected areas identified in terms of NEMPAA or from a biosphere reserve.</i></p>	<p>Activity 18 (h)(ii) is triggered since the existing access road to the site will need to be widened by more than 4 metres and the site is located 5km from the Fred Coetzee Nature Reserve.</p>

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as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated May 2023 at:

SG 21 Digit Code:

Farm Description	21-SG Digit Number
Portion 1 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70;	T0IQ00000000000700001
Portion 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70	T0IQ00000000000700002

Coordinates: Jersey PV SEF (BESS, substation, power line corridor):

Alternative (preferred site)	Latitude	Longitude
North-West Corner	26° 8'31.70"S	27° 4'27.14"E
Northern Bend	26° 8'34.78"S	27° 5'11.51"E
North-East Corner	26° 8'33.27"S	27° 5'35.72"E
South-West Corner	26°10'4.79"S	27° 5'44.46"E
South-East Corner	26°10'13.68"S	27° 4'27.37"E
Substation	26°10'3.24"S	27° 4'27.65"E
	26°10'3.30"S	27° 4'33.06"E
	26°10'10.51"S	27° 4'33.05"E
	26°10'10.48"S	27° 4'27.65"E
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	26° 9'56.33"S	27° 4'27.63"E
	26° 9'56.33"S	27° 4'38.43"E
	26°10'2.88"S	27° 4'38.45"E
	26°10'2.85"S	27° 4'27.63"E
Power Line Corridor		
Start	26°10'10.56"S	27° 4'27.35"E
Middle 1	26°10'10.51"S	27° 4'33.05"E
Middle 2	26°10'13.98"S	27° 4'33.03"E
End	26°10'14.59"S	27° 4'27.36"E
Access to site (Preferred option)	26°10'25.59"S	27° 2'43.08"E
	26°10'24.17"S	27° 2'54.26"E
	26°10'21.92"S	27° 2'56.44"E

	26°10'2.74"S	27° 5'44.22"E
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- for the proposed 350MW Jersey Photovoltaic Solar Power Plant and its associated infrastructure located on Portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70 northeast of the town of Ventersdorp within the JB Marks Local Municipality in the North West Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The 350MW Jersey Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility will comprise the following:

- Photovoltaic (PV) Panel Array;
- Substation: 2ha;
- Battery storage: 4ha;
- Wiring to Central Inverters;
- Connection to the grid;
- Electrical reticulation network (power line): 132kV;
- Supporting Infrastructure:
 - Security Room: ~150m²
 - O&M laydown: within 3.5ha
- Switch gear;
- Access roads; and
- Fencing.

Technical details for the Jersey PV SEF:

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	Up to 6 meters
Area of PV Array	599 Hectares (Development footprint)
Number of inverters required	Minimum 50
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations / BESS	Central inverters+ LV/MV trafo: 750m ² HV/MV substation with switching station: 20 000m ² BESS: 4ha
Capacity of on-site substation	132kV
Capacity of the power line	132kV
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	Total footprint: 599 Hectares Construction Laydown Area: ~3ha

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Area occupied by buildings	Security Room: ~150m ² O&M laydown: within 3.5ha
Battery storage facility	Maximum height: 8m Maximum volume: 1740m ³ Capacity: Up to 350MW
Length of internal roads	Approximately 30km
Width of internal roads	Between 4 & 6 meters
Proximity to grid connection	Approximately 94km
Grid connection corridor width	200 and up to 550m in width
Grid connection corridor length	Up to ~94m
Power line servitude width	32m
Height of fencing	Approximately 2.5 meters

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of the 350MW Jersey Photovoltaic Solar Power Plant and its associated infrastructure located on Portions 1 and 2 of the Farm Illmasdale No. 70 northeast of the town of Ventersdorp within the JB Marks Local Municipality in the North West 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 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 Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)-Appendix F1-Jersey Solar Power Plant EMPr, Appendix F2 Jersey Power Line Generic EMPr, and Appendix F3 Jersey Substation Generic EMPr submitted as part of the EIA dated May 2023 are approved and must be implemented and adhered to.
14. The site layout plans as submitted with the EIA dated May 2023 (Figure I1) is approved.
15. The EMPrs must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. They shall be seen as a dynamic documents and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
16. Changes to the approved EMPrs must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPrs should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIA be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPrs

18. The EMPrs must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 29 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPrs.
19. The updated EMPrs must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. The updated EMPrs 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 EMPrs must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPrs 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 EMPrs, 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 EMPs 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 EMP.
24. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
25. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
26. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
27. 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

28. 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 at Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za.
29. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMP remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMP are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department at Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za.
30. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMP, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
31. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report 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.

32. 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.
33. 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

34. 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

35. 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

36. 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

37. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
38. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or nationally protected species.
39. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.

40. The ECO must monitor all substantial surface clearance operations and excavations into sedimentary rocks for fossil remains on an on-going basis during the construction phase.
41. Construction must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
42. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
43. A search and rescue for reptiles and other vulnerable species during construction, before areas of intact vegetation are cleared must be done. Such search and rescue should be conducted by relevant experts with experience in search and rescue of the faunal groups concerned.
44. The design must ensure that there is no electrical fencing around substations (and associated battery facilities) or other features within 30cm of the ground as tortoises become stuck against such fences and are electrocuted to death. Alternatively, a guard wire set at 20cm can be used to keep larger tortoises away from the fence.
45. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works and operational activities. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
46. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA.
47. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

48. The recommendations of the EAP in the EIAR dated May 2023 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.
 49. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 49.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 49.2. to anyone on request; and
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49.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

50. 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: 18/08/2023



Mr Sabelo Malaza
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 12 December 2022.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated May 2023.
- c) The comments received from the JB Marks Local Municipality; the North West Department of Economic Development, Environment Conservation and Tourism; SAHRA and Interested and Affected Parties as included in the EIAr dated May 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPs dated May 2023.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated May 2023 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date issued
Terrestrial Biodiversity Compliance Statement for the proposed Jersey Solar Power Plant	The Biodiversity Company	December 2022
Wetland Baseline & Risk Assessment for the proposed Jersey Solar Power Plant Project	The Biodiversity Company	November 2022
Avifauna Assessment for the proposed Jersey Photovoltaic (PV) Facility	The Biodiversity Company	March 2023
Visual Impact Assessment for the development of the Jersey Solar Power Plant near Ventersdorp, North West Province	Donaway Environmental	November 2022
Traffic Impact Assessment for the transportation of solar energy equipment to the Jersey Photovoltaic Solar Power Project located near Ventersdorp, North West Province	Bvi Consulting Engineers Western Cape (Pty) Ltd	December 2022
Phase 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment: The Development of the Jersey Solar Power Plant near Ventersdorp, North West Province	J A van Schalkwyk	November 2022

Social Impact Assessment: The Development of the Jersey Solar Power Plant near Ventersdorp, North West Province	Donaway Environmental	November 2022:
Agricultural Compliance Statement for the proposed Jersey Solar Power Plant Project	The Biodiversity Company	October 2022:
Palaeontological Impact Assessment Jersey Solar Power Plant near Ventersdorp, North West Province	Banzai Environmental	May 2023:

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 May 2023 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAr dated May 2023 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken, and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 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 May 2023 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 May 2023 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.



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