Dear Stakeholder

Zevobuzz (Pty) Ltd submitted an application for environmental authorisation to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for the construction and operation of the Kruisvallei Hydroelectric Power Generation Scheme, Free State Province (DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1894).

The applicant hereby advises registered interested and affected parties, as instructed by the decision issued by the DEA on 10 July 2018, and in terms of Regulation 4(2), of the outcome of the application for environmental authorisation. The DEA granted environmental authorisation for the abovementioned project on 10 July 2018.

The reasons for the decision are outlined in the EA are as follows:

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the DEA took, inter alia, the following into consideration-

a) The information contained in the application for environmental authorisation received by the Department on 07 March 2018.
b) The information contained in the draft BAR received by the Department on 07 March 2018.
c) The discussion during the meeting convened with the EAP and applicant on 12 September 2017 and 10 April 2018.
d) The information contained in the final BAR received by the Department on 20 April 2018.
e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998.
f) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the BAR dated April 2018 and detailed below:
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 issue which, in the Department’s view, were of the most significance is set out below.

a) The project was previously authorized (Lower kruisvallei Ref: 12/12/20/1876) and Middle Kruisvallei Ref: 12/12/20/1875) and has been selected as a Preferred Bidder Project under the Department of Energy’s Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (Round 4).

b) The BAR dated April 2018 identified all relevant legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.

c) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.

d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated 14 April 2018 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 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 BAR dated April 2018 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 proposed mitigation of impacts identified as assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.

d) The information contained in the BAR dated 17 April 2018 is deemed to be accurate and credible.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Prepared by</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecological Basic Assessment Report</td>
<td>Mr Gerhard Botha</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecological Reserve Determination, Aquatic Study and Impact Assessment</td>
<td>Tlou Consulting (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of Agricultural Impact Assessment (on a portion of the farm Middelvallei 130 and on a portion of the farm kruisvallei 190)</td>
<td>Mr C R Lubbe</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Report on Agricultural Impact Assessment (on the farm kruisvallei 190)</td>
<td>Mr C R Lubbe</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage Impact Assessment</td>
<td>CTS Heritage</td>
<td>February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Impact Assessment</td>
<td>Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd</td>
<td>January 2018</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the developments were proposed and included in the BAR 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 potential detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

A copy of the environmental authorisation, conditions for authorisation, as well as reasons for the decision can be requested by sending an email to gabriele@savannahsa.com.

NOTICE OF APPEAL PROCESS

As an interested and affected party, your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. 993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Should you wish to appeal the decision by DEA, you must submit an 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 registered interested and affected parties by the applicant (i.e. 12 July 2018).

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

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review

Tel: (012) 399 9356
Email: AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za
By post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001
By hand: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria.

Please note that appeals should be submitted to National DEA and not to the consultant (Savannah Environmental).

Kind regards,

Gabriele Stein
Public Participation and Social Consultant
Email: gabriele@savannahsa.com