

11 December 2020

Natasha Higgit
SAHRA
111 Harrington Street
Cape Town
8001
Tel: (021) 462 4502
Fax: (021) 462 4509

Letter uploaded via SAHRIS

Dear Mrs Higgit,

**RE: COMMENT FROM SAHRA ON THE JUWI SKEERHOK TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
(SAHRIS CASE ID: 15690)**

As you are aware, juwi Renewable Energies (PTY) Ltd is proposing to develop three 100 Megawatt (MW) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) power generation facilities and associated electrical infrastructure **(including 132 kV transmission line, to which this letter refers)** on Portion 0 of Smutshoek Farm 395 and Portion 9 of Gembok Bult Farm 120 and the connection points to the Eskom Nieuwehoop Substation on the remaining extent of Portion 3 of Gembok Bult Farm 120, approximately 80 km south of Upington and 30 km north-east of Kenhardt within the !Kheis Local Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

In terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) and the 2014 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, as amended, promulgated in Government Gazette 40772 and Government Notice (GN) R327, R326, R325 and R324, as amended on 7 April 2017, a full Scoping and EIA Process is required for the construction of the three Solar PV facilities. A separate Basic Assessment Process has been undertaken for the development of the proposed transmission line, associated electrical infrastructure and connection to the Eskom Nieuwehoop Substation. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was appointed by the Project Applicant to undertake the separate requisite Basic Assessment and Scoping and EIA Processes for the proposed projects.

The project received Environmental Authorisation on 01/11/2019 from the Competent Authority (National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries). In terms of public participation, the project was subjected to a 30-day public comment period on the Daft Basic Assessment Report, of which SAHRA was an I&AP. In terms of SAHRIS, the project is understood to have been uploaded in 2019 to SAHRIS by a team member from the CSIR, however, this application is no longer accessible as this individual is no longer at the CSIR. As the EA has already been granted for the project, juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as juwi) is therefore seeking to request a letter of **comment/no comment** from SAHRA on this project in order to fulfil the requirements of a bid to the Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP).

The Final Basic Assessment Report, as well as the Heritage Specialist Study for the project has been re-uploaded to SAHRIS by the undersigned to supplement the information required for this letter. All impacts on Heritage resources were thoroughly assessed by the specialist, and mitigation requirements

included in the EMPr, which was subsequently approved by DEFF.

It would be greatly appreciated if SAHRA could use this information to issue a letter of comment/no comment on this project for the Project Applicant to include in their bid submission. It is kindly requested that this letter be uploaded to the SHARIS case file as well as emailed to Karen Low (on behalf of juwi) at:

karen.low@juwi.co.za
Tel. [+27 21 831 6131](tel:+27218316131)
Mobile [+27 84 454 9944](tel:+27844549944)

SAHRA's assistance in this regard is highly appreciated. Please contact the undersigned, or Ms Karen Low (contact details above) for more queries.

Kind Regards,



Kelly Stroebel
Project Manager
CSIR Environmental Management Services

cc	Karen Low	Representative of Project Applicant (juwi)	karen.low@juwi.co.za
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Board members: Prof. T. Majazi (Chairperson), Ms P. Baleni, Dr A. Childs, Dr R. Masango, Mr S. Masie, Ms T. Mokhabuki, Dr V. Mthethwa, Mr J. Netshitenzhe, Dr C. Render, Mr C. Shariff, Dr T. Dlamini (CEO)

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