



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 417 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia · PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1987
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5 Woodlands Drive & Western Service Road
WOODMEAD
2191

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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS) AND BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MOEDING SOLAR PV FACILITY WITHIN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the Application for Environmental Authorisation and draft Basic Assessment Report for the abovementioned project on 15 January 2019. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but **must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.**

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

All documentation delivered to the physical address contained in this form must be delivered during the official Departmental Office Hours which is visible on the Departmental gate. EIA related documents (includes application forms, reports or any EIA related submissions) that are faxed; emailed; delivered to Security or placed in the Departmental Tender Box will not be accepted.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote this reference number in all future submissions.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Azrah Essop

Designation: Environmental Officer Specialised Production: EIA Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support

Date: 16/01/2019

CC	Mike Levington	Moeding Solar (Pty) Ltd	Email: Mike.levington@kabisolar.co.za
	Dr Poncho Mokaila	North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development	Email: pmokaila@nwpg.gov.za
	Tshepo Bloom	Naledi Local Municipality	Email: municipalmanager@naledi.local.gov.za strydomr@naledi.local.gov.za



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Enquiries: Mr Herman Alberts

Telephone: 012 399 9371 **E-mail:** HAlberts@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Tel: (011) 656 3237
E-Mail: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOEDING SOLAR PV FACILITY IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated January 2019 and received by the Department on 15 January 2019, refer.

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- iii. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final BAR.
- iv. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- v. The Public Participation Process (PPP) must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
- vi. The final BAR must contain a comment and response report with all the comments provided during the PPP and the corresponding responses from the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and Applicant to those comments.
- vii. Please provide a full description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 1 (2) (e) and 3 (1) (h) (i) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

- viii. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
- ix. In accordance with Appendix 1 (3) (1) (a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the following details must be submitted:
 - *the EAP who prepared the report; and*
 - *the expertise of the EAP to carry out EIA procedures;*
- x. The final BAR must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- xi. The final BAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- xii. If there are similar applications in the area, all the specialist assessments must include a cumulative environmental impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts. The cumulative impact assessment must indicate the following:
 - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.
- xiii. The final BAR must provide the following:
 - Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed PV facility
 - Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but not limited to the following:
 - Power lines;
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.
- xiv. You are further reminded that the final BAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of BARs in accordance with Appendix 1 and Regulation 19(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
- xv. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process must be included in the final BAR.
- xvi. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- xvii. A shapefile of the preferred development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department. 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: Muhammad Essop
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406
Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za

The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the final BAR must comply with all the requirements in terms of the content of EMPrs in accordance with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The EMPr must also include, but is not limited to the following:

- xviii. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist studies conducted.
- xix. The final site layout map.
- xx. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- xxi. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- xxii. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
- xxiii. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
- xxiv. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- xxv. A traffic management plan for the site access roads. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters.
- xxvi. A transportation plan for the transport of components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment.
- xxvii. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- xxviii. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- xxix. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- xxx. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.

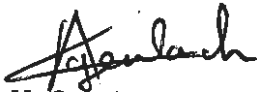
The EAP must provide detailed and written motivation if any of the above requirements are not required by the proposed development and not included in the EMPr.

Furthermore, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999. Comments from SAHRA and/or the provincial department of heritage must be provided in the BAR.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (1 CD and 1 USB) and two (2) hard copies of the BAR to the Department as per Regulation 19(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). You are also reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, which stipulates that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of the these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 14/02/2019

CC:	Mr Mike Levington	Moeding Solar (Pty) Ltd	E-mail: Mike.levington@kabisolar.co.za
	Mr Dr Poncho Mokaila	NW DREAD	E-mail: pmokaila@nwpg.gov.za
	Mr Tshepo Bloom	Naledi Local Municipality	E-mail: strydomr@naledi.local.gov.za

EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER (PV) ENERGY FACILITIES

1. General site information

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- PV plant design specifications including:
 - Type of technology
 - Structure height
 - Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)
 - Structure orientation
 - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
 - Generation capacity
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any BAR, Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

2. Sample of technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	
Area of PV	
Number of inverters required	
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations	
Capacity of on-site substation	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Area occupied by buildings	
Length of internal roads	
Width of internal roads	
Proximity to grid connection	
Height of fencing	
Type of fencing	

3. Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
 - Current use of land on the site including:
 - Buildings and other structures

- Agricultural fields
- Grazing areas
- Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
- Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
- Cultural historical sites and elements
- Rivers, streams and water courses
- Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
- Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
- High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
 - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land
 - 1km from residential areas
- Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
 - Less than 8% slope (preferred areas for facility and infrastructure)
 - between 8% and 12% slope (potentially sensitive to facility and infrastructure)
 - between 12% and 14% slope (highly sensitive to facility and infrastructure)
 - steeper than 18 % slope (unsuitable for facility and infrastructure)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
 - Foundation footprint
 - Permanent laydown area footprint
 - Construction period laydown footprint
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible)
 - River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
 - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)
 - Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM)
 - Cut and fill areas of power tower and heliostats sites along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill
 - Borrow pits
 - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)
 - Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of the application.

4. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:

- roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
- Railway lines and stations
- Industrial areas
- Harbours and airports
- Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
- Pipelines
- Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases
- A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
- Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas
- Agricultural fields
- Irrigated areas
- An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams

5. Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Any application, documentation, notification etc. should be forwarded to the following officials:

Ms Mashudu Marubini
 Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970)
 E-mail: MashuduMa@daff.gov.za
 Tel 012- 319 7619

Ms Thoko Buthelezi
 AgriLand Liaison office
 E-mail: ThokoB@daff.gov.za
 Tel 012- 319 7634

All hardcopy applications / documentation should be forwarded to the following address:

Physical address:
 Delpen Building
 Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street
 Office 270
 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

Postal Address:
 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 Private Bag X120
 Pretoria
 0001
 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom regarding grid connectivity and capacity. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mr John Geeringh
 Eskom Transmission

Megawatt Park D1Y38
PO Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Tel: 011 516 7233
Fax: 086 661 4064
John.geeringh@eskom.co.za

B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following:
 - Identification of the soil forms present on site
 - The size of the area where a particular soil form is found
 - GPS readings of soil survey points
 - The depth of the soil at each survey point
 - Soil colour
 - Limiting factors
 - Clay content
 - Slope of the site
 - A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area,
 - Size of the site
- Exact locality of the site
- Current activities on the site, developments, buildings
- Surrounding developments / land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site
- Access routes and the condition thereof
- Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment)
- Possible land use options for the site
- Water availability, source and quality (if available)
- Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice
- Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area
- A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map.

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environmental Affairs: Strategic Infrastructure Development (John Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form