

Your reference: N/A

Our reference: 10777

Date: 31 January 2013

Dear Stakeholder

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A WIND FARM NEAR NOUPOORT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DEA Ref No: 12/12/20/2319) (NEAS Ref No: DEA/EIA/0000382/2011)

• **ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION**

SiVEST would like to advise that, after reviewing the relevant documentation, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) has issued a positive Environmental Authorisation (EA - DEA Reference No. 12/12/20/2319, NEAS Reference No. DEA/EIA/0000382/2011) on the 29 October 2012 for the proposed development of a wind farm near Noupoort, Northern Cape Province, in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, 107 of 1998) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010.

The applicant (South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Noupoort (Pty) Ltd) should be authorised to undertake the activities specified in the application form and the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The reasons given are as follows:

1. Information Considered in Making the Decision
 - a. Information contained in the EIAR dated April 2012;
 - b. The comments received from organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAR dated April 2012;
 - c. Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAR dated April 2012 and the EMPr;
 - d. The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix 6C of the EIAR;
 - e. The findings of the site visit conducted on 25 May 2012; and
 - f. The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).
2. Key Factors in Making the Decision
 - a. The findings of all the specialist studies conducted, identified issues and recommended mitigation measures which were deemed acceptable;
 - b. The need for the proposed project stems from provision of electricity to the national grid in terms of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) and the provision of electricity from Independent Power Producers as required by the Department of Energy;
 - c. The EIAR dated April 2012 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIR;
 - d. The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAR dated April 2012 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, 2010 for public involvement.

3. Findings

- a. The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the EIAR dated April 2012 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts was undertaken;
- b. The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision making process;
- c. The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts;
- d. The information contained in the EIAR dated April 2012 is accurate and credible;
- e. The Environmental Management Programme (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 process.

In accordance with Government Notice No. R.543, Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2010), should you or any party, including the applicant, wish to appeal any aspect of the decision, they or the applicant must, *inter alia*, lodge a notice of intention to appeal with the Minister, within 20 days after the 31 January 2013, by means of the following methods

- By facsimile: 012 320 7561;
- By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001; or
- By hand: 2nd Floor,
Fedsure Building
North Tower
Corner of Lillian Ngoyi and Pretorius Streets
Pretoria

Please refer to the attached appeal document provided by the DEA for the details pertaining to the appeal process.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to Mr T Zwane, Senior Legal Administration Officer (Appeals), to the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Zwane can also be contacted at:

- Tel: 012 310 3929
- Email: tzwane@environment.gov.za

Please note that appeals are not to be sent to SiVEST. A copy of the official appeal form can be obtained from Mr T Zwane at the details supplied above.

A copy of the Environmental Authorisation can be obtained at request from the Public Participation Office at the details below:

SIVEST Environmental: Nicolene Venter or Shaun Taylor

Tel: (011) 798 0600

Fax: (011) 803 7272

Email: iafrica@icon.co.za or shaunt@sivest.co.za

We would like to thank you for participating in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and being part of the public participation process during the EIA for this proposed project. Your participation has been valuable and highly appreciated and was a key factor in assisting the preparation of an informed Environmental Authorisation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nicolene".

Nicolene Venter
Public Participation & Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner

Documents included: Appeal Procedure