



agriculture, environmental affairs,
rural development and land reform

Department:
agriculture, environmental affairs,
rural development and land reform .
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Enquiries :
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Imibuzo :
Navrae :

Reference : NC/BA/09/PIX/UMS/NOU1/2023
Tshupelo :
Isalathiso :
Verwysing :

Date :
Leshupelo:
Umhla : 18th September 2023
Datum :

MOOI PLAATS SOLAR POWER (PTY)LTD

Mr. Sheldon Vandrey
Waterfront Business Park,
Building 4-First Floor
1204 Humerail
PORT ELIZABETH
6001

Email: Sheldon.vandrey@edf-re.co.za

Dear Sir/Madam

THE GRANTING OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR: ACTIVITY NO.11(i), ACTIVITY NO.19, ACTIVITY NO.24(ii), ACTIVITY NO.28(ii) OF GN. R327 OF APRIL 2017 (AS AMENDED), ACTIVITY NO.4(g)(ii) (ee), ACTIVITY NO.12 g (II), ACTIVITY NO.14 (ii) (a)(c), ACTIVITY NO.18(g)(ii)(ee) OF GN. R324 OF APRIL 2017 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHL), 33 KV OHL AND INTERNAL ACCESS ROADS FOR THE AUTHORISED MOOI PLAATS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (SEF) (14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT: UMSOBOMVU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT NORTHERN CAPE.

By virtue of power conferred to me by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014: **ACTIVITY NO.11(i), ACTIVITY NO.19, ACTIVITY NO.24(ii), ACTIVITY NO.28(ii) OF GN. R327 OF APRIL 2017 (AS AMENDED), ACTIVITY NO.4(g)(ii) (ee), ACTIVITY NO.12 g (II), ACTIVITY NO.14 (ii) (a)(c), ACTIVITY NO.18(g)(ii)(ee) OF GN. R324 OF APRIL 2017 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHL), 33 KV OHL AND INTERNAL ACCESS ROADS FOR THE AUTHORISED MOOI PLAATS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (SEF) (14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT: UMSOBOMVU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT NORTHERN CAPE.**

A detail description of the activity is given in the **Final basic assessment report dated May 2023**, subject to the conditions listed in the environmental authorisation and reasons for the decision are attached herewith. In terms of regulation 4 (2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, you are instructed to notify all registered interested and

Permit 23/2023

affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of receiving of this letter, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the making of appeals that are provided for in the regulations.

Your attention is drawn to chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulation which regulates appeal procedures. Should you/ any person affected by this decision wish to appeal any aspect of the prescribed in regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014, with the Member of the Executive Council, Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservation within 20 days of receiving

this letter, by means of one of the following methods:

By facsimile: (053) 8077328
By post: Private Bag X 6102, Kimberley, 8300 or
By hand: 90 Long Street, Kimberley, 8300

Should you decide to appeal, you must serve a copy of your notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection.

Yours Faithfully



**MR. B FISHER: DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT & LAND REFORM**

DATE OF DECISION: _____

20 September 2023

Cc: **SLR CONSULTING (SOUTH AFRICA) (PTY) LTD**
Stuart Heather-Clark
Email: shclark@slrconsulting.com
Iscottshaw@slrconsulting.com



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rural development and land reform

Department:
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NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

in terms of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended)

**Authorisation Register
Number:**

PERMIT 23/2023

Reference Number:

NC/BA/09/PIX/UMS/NOU1/2023

Last Amended:

N/A

Holder of Authorisation:

MOOI PLAATS SOLAR POWER (PTY) LTD

Location of activity:

MOOI PLAATS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY NEAR
NOUPOORT, UMSOBOMVU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
PIXELEY KA SEME DISTRICT, NORTHERN CAPE
PROVINCE.

DEFINITIONS

"Activity" means an activity identified in any notice published by the Minister or MEC in terms of section 24D (1) (a) of the Act as a listed activity or specified activity;

"Proponent" means a person intending to submit an application for environmental authorisation and is referred to as an applicant once such application for environmental authorisation has been submitted;

"Application" means an application for an -

- (a) environmental authorization in terms of Chapter 4 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;
- (b) amendment to an environmental authorisation in terms of Chapter 5 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;
- (c) amendment to an EMPr in terms of Chapter 5 the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;
- (d) amendment of a closure plan in terms of Chapter 5 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Basic Assessment Report" means a report contemplated in regulation 19 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Environmental Impact Assessment Report" means a report contemplated in regulation 23 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment" means a study contemplated in regulation 22 which forms part of a scoping report and sets out how an environmental impact assessment will be conducted;

"Scoping Report" means a report contemplated in regulation 21 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"EAP" means an Environmental Assessment Practitioner as defined in section 1 of the Act;

"EMPr" means an environmental management programme contemplated in regulations 19 and 23 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Registered Interested and Affected Party" in relation to an application, means an interested and affected party whose name is recorded in the register opened for that application in terms of regulation 42;

"Public Participation Process" means the process in which potential interested and affected parties are given an opportunity to comment on, or raise issues relevant to specific activity;

"Department" means the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform.

"The Act" means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

DECISION

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activity specified below.

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, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

MOOI PLAATS SOLAR POWER (PTY)LTD

with the following contact details –

Mr. Sheldon Vandrey
Waterfront Business Park,
Building 4-First Floor
1204 Humerail
PORT ELIZABETH
6001

Cell: (+27) 82 325 6062
Tel: (+27) 41 506 4900
Email: Sheldon.vandrey@edf-re.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity")

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHL), 33 KV OHL AND INTERNAL ACCESS ROADS FOR THE AUTHORISED MOOI PLAATS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (SEF) (14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Activity No. 11 (i) of GN. R327 of April 2017 (as amended)

The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity, —

- (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kV or more.

Activity No. 19 of GN. R327 of April 2017 (as amended)

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles, or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.

Activity No. 24 (ii) of GN. R327 of April 2017 (as amended)

The development of a road with a reserve wider than 13.5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres; —

Activity No. 28(ii) of GN. R327 of April 2017 (as amended)

Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: —

- (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare

Activity No. 4 (g) (ii) (ee) of GN. R324 of April 2017 (as amended)

The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres.

(g)(ii) (ee): Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Activity No. 12 of GN. R324 of April 2017 (as amended)

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

g. Northern Cape

- (ii). Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;

Activity No. 14 (ii) of GN. R324 of April 2017 (as amended)

The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more, where such development occurs—

- (a) within a watercourse;

- (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

g. Northern Cape

(ii) Outside urban areas:

- (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Activity No. 18 (g)(ii)(ee) of GN. R324 of April 2017 (as amended)

The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre;

g. Northern Cape

(ii) Outside urban areas:

(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

At Mooi Plaats Solar Energy Facility (SEF) near Noupoort, which falls within the jurisdiction of Umsobomvu Local municipality, Pixeley ka Seme District in the Northern Cape Province. With the following co-ordinates;

Powerline 1

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	17'	39.933"	24°	43'	52.113"
31°	17'	26.517"	24°	43'	19.675"
31°	17'	32.309"	24°	44'	46.126"

Powerline 2

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	16'	43.404"	24°	45'	37.149"
31°	17'	13.282"	24°	45'	17.968"
31°	17'	32.243"	24°	44'	47.006"

Powerline 3

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	17'	32.571"	24°	44'	43.027"
31°	19'	54.655"	24°	46'	21.662"
31°	21'	21.246"	24°	49'	9.274"

Road 1

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	18'	20.582"	24°	43'	40.232"
31°	18'	36.778"	24°	43'	45.381"
31°	18'	58.410"	24°	43'	44.862"

Road 2

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	17'	24.692"	24°	44'	28.587"
31°	17'	30.970"	24°	44'	8.613"
31°	17'	40.211"	24°	43'	48.797"

Road 3

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	18'	8.741"	24°	45'	20.578"
31°	18'	9.641"	24°	45'	21.865"
31°	18'	10.541"	24°	45'	23.152"

Hereafter referred to as "the property".

The granting of this Environmental Authorisation is subject to the conditions set out below.

CONDITIONS

Scope of authorisation:

1. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which conditions form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
2. The holder of the authorisation **must** be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his or her behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, sub-contractor, employee or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
3. The activities which are authorised **must** only be carried out at the property indicated above.
4. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this 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 authorisation in terms of the regulations.
5. 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 activities.

General conditions:

6. A copy of this authorisation must be kept at the property where the activities will be undertaken. The authorisation must be produced to any authorised official of the Department who requests to see it and must be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the holder of the authorisation who works or undertakes work at the property.
7. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/ or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
8. The holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing and within 24 (Twenty-Four) hours, if condition 16 of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. In all other cases, the holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing, within seven (7) days if any condition of this authorisation is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
9. Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the regulations.

10. This authorization is subject to the approval by the relevant local authorities i.e. in terms of any relevant legislation administered by those local authorities.
11. The activities **must** not commence without the necessary permits/licenses/approvals and/or service agreements, where it is relevant, from or with the relevant regulatory authorities whether national, provincial or local (these include but are not limited to National Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment; National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development; Department of Human Settlement; Department of Water & Sanitation; Department of Mineral Resources & Energy; Department of Transport; Department of Employment & Labour; Department of Public Works & Infrastructure; Department of Sports, Arts & Culture; South African Heritage Resources Agency; South African Civil Aviation Authority).
12. The activities, including site preparation, may not commence before the thirty (30) day appeal period expires or until such time as the Department has considered any appeals that have been lodged;
 - a. **Seven (7) days** written notice must be given to the Department before commencement with the activity.
 - b. Such notice shall make clear reference to the site location details and the reference number given above.
 - c. The said notice must also include proof of compliance with the following condition described herein:
 - i. Condition: 11
13. The applicable conditions of this authorization must form part of all contractors' and sub-contractors' conditions of contract. A performance-based requirement with regard to environmental impact management must be included in all contracts related to any aspect of this authorization.
14. The applicant must carry out regular environmental audits to establish compliance with the conditions of this authorization and contracts.
15. Environmental Management Inspectors employed by the Department shall be given access to the property as described above (see detailed description of the activities) for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorization. Where the activity is located on a third party's property the applicant shall be responsible to arrange access for departmental officials.
16. This Department may add to, change and/or amend any of the conditions in this authorization if, in the opinion of the Department, the addition, change of amendment is environmentally justified. In event that such impacts exceed its significance as predicted in the independent consultant's environmental scoping report and supporting documentation, the authorization may be withdrawn after proper procedures were followed.
17. In the event of any dispute concerning the significance of a particular impact, the opinion of this department in respect of its significance will prevail.
18. This Department and any national department, provincial department, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this application or any other public authority or organization

shall not be held responsible for any damage or losses suffered by the applicant or his 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 applicant with the conditions of approval as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of approval.

19. The applicant shall be responsible for all costs necessary to comply with the above conditions unless otherwise specified.
20. The applicant must apply the principle of best practicable environmental option for all technologies used/ implemented during construction and operation phase.

Appeal of authorisation:

21. In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the Department decision in respect of the amendment made as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.
22. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed.

Management of activity:

25. The Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation must be implemented. (Alternatively, if further changes are required to the EMPr as a result of the authorisation, this condition must be modified).
26. Ensure that all "NO-GO" areas are clearly defined and adequately demarcated.
27. All works are to be conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner and in accordance with the EMPr and conditions of this authorization.

Monitoring

28. The EMPr must be strictly enforced during all phases of the project.
29. Changes to the EMPr, which are environmentally defensible, must be submitted to this Department for acceptance before such changes are affected.
30. The Department reserves the right to amend the EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the Basic Assessment Report.
31. Stormwater management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must comply with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated stormwater.

32. Fire management plan must be always available on-site and employees must be made aware of the plan.

Environmental Control Officer (ECO) and Duties

33. The holder of this authorisation must appoint an independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) with experience or expertise in the field for the construction phase of the development. The ECO will have the responsibility to ensure that the conditions referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
34. The ECO must be appointed before the commencement of any authorised activity.
35. The ECO must meet with the contractors to discuss the conditions of the **Environmental Authorisation** and the contents of the EMPr prior to commencement of activities.
36. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
37. The ECO must keep a record of all activities on site, potential impacts, problems identified, transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. Photographs must be taken (before, during and immediately after construction as a visual reference).

Recording and Reporting to the Department

41. The holder of this authorisation must keep all records relating to monitoring and auditing on site and make it available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.
42. Records relating to compliance or non-compliance with any condition of this authorization must be kept in good order. Such records must be made available to any Official from the Monitoring Compliance and Enforcement section of the Directorate: Environmental Management within seven (7) days of a written request by the said Officer.
43. Any complaints regarding the said development must be brought to the attention of the Department within 24 hours of receiving the complaints; the register must be kept up to date for inspection by the Department. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/ or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.

Environmental audit report

44. The holder of the authorization must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase and within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
45. The Environmental audit report must:
 - Be compiled by an independent environmental auditor;
 - 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 EMPr.
 - Include measures to be implemented to attend to any non-compliance.
 - Include copies of any approvals granted by other authorities relevant to the department for the reporting period.
 - Highlight any outstanding environmental issues that must be addressed, along with recommendations for ensuring that they are appropriately addressed.
 - Include evidence of adherence to the conditions of this authorisation and the EMPr where relevant such as training records.

Operation of the activity

46. Seven (7) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity will commence. 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.
47. The authorised activities must not commence before the statutory 30 days of an appeal period has expired.
48. Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorization pending appeal procedures, you must not commence with the activities unless authorized by the Minister in writing.
49. Environmental training must be conducted for the staff/employees before commencement of the project and environmental awareness must be given throughout the life cycle of the project. Workers should be informed that the hunting, snaring and killing of fauna is not allowed on site.
50. The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act No. 85 of 1993) must be implemented by an independent Health and Safety Officer.
51. The level of noise generated on site must be kept as low as possible and must be restricted within normal working hours.
52. Noise levels must also comply with the Noise Control Regulations (GN R 154) as well as the acceptable day rating levels as per the SANS10103:2008 guidelines.
53. Chemical mobile toilets must be made available for workers on site and they must be serviced regularly.
54. The removal of natural vegetation must be restricted to the footprint of the proposed activity.

55. Any waste generated during the construction and operation phase must be disposed of at a waste disposal site licensed for such waste.
56. No on-site burning or burying of solid waste is permitted.
57. Hazardous waste/materials must be safely stored in designated areas, with properly visible signs, in a manner that does not endanger human health or the environment.
58. The holder of this environmental authorization must take adequate precautions to ensure that open fires do not ignite as a result of construction works on site.
59. The construction area must be demarcated, no construction or dumping activities are allowed outside the proposed footprint.
60. The Holder of this Environmental Authorisation must ensure construction and operation adhere to the National Water Act; 1998 (Act No.36 of 1998) Part 4 Section 19: Pollution Prevention and Part 5 Section 20 Emergency Incidents.
61. The Holder of this Environmental Authorisation must ensure construction and operation adhere to Government Notice No. 36784; No. R. 634: Department of Environmental Affairs; National Environmental Management Waste Act; 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008); Waste Classification and Management Regulations.
62. The Holder of this Environmental Authorisation must ensure that all activities associated with the proposed project consider Integrated Environmental Management by ensuring that development is socially, environmentally and economically sustainable.
63. The holder of this Environmental Authorization must ensure that soil compaction is limited to the proposed footprint of the activity.
64. Dust control measures must be implemented during the clearing phase and must comply with the dust regulations promulgated under the Air Quality Act, 2004 (Act No.39 of 2004).
65. If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, paleontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources is found during development or construction, SAHRA and an archaeologist and/or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the resources found, must be alerted immediately.
66. The spreading of declared weedy and alien invasive plant species must be controlled and monitored at all times.
67. Topsoil from all excavations and construction activities must be salvaged and reapplied during reclamation.
68. Backfill material must only be obtained from legal sources, which have permits to source such materials.
69. If erosion occurs and causes environmental degradation as a result of this authorized activity, the holder of this environmental authorization must take responsibility for recovering the damaged properties as soon as possible.

70. Vehicle repairs and repairs of any construction machinery must not be conducted on-site.
71. All mitigation measures detailed in the Environmental Management Programme report must be implemented.

Site Closure and Decommissioning:

72. Should the proposed activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant 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.
73. The holder of this Environmental Authorization must consult with the Department prior to decommissioning of this activity.
74. All areas disturbed by the project must be rehabilitated to an acceptable condition.

DURATION AND PERIOD OF VALIDITY

This activity(s) must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue. If commencement of the activity(s) does not occur within that period and the intention is to extend the validity period of the authorization, an application for amendment to extend the validity period must be launched at least three (3) months prior to the expiry date of the validity period. 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.

APPEAL

An appellant 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 the applicant by the competent authority.

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

The Member of the Executive Council
Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform
Private Bag X6102
Kimberley
8300
Fax: (053) 832 1026

Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act 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 is finalised.



MR. B. FISHER

DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LAND REFORM

DATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION:

20 September 2023

ANNEXURE 1: REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Background

The applicant **MOOI PLAATS SOLAR POWER (PTY) LTD** applied for environmental authorization to carry on the following activity –

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 132KV OVERHEAD POWERLINE (OHL), 33 KV OHL AND INTERNAL ACCESS ROADS FOR THE AUTHORISED MOOI PLAATS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (SEF) (14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR NOUPOORT, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

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- (iii) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kV or more.

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The development of a road with a reserve wider than 13.5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres; —

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Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: —

- (iv) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare

Activity No. 4 (g) (ii) (ee) of GN. R324 of April 2017 (as amended)

The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13.5 metres.

(g)(ii) (ee): Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Activity No. 12 of GN. R324 of April 2017 (as amended)

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

g. Northern Cape

(ii). Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans;

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The development of infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more, where such development occurs—

(b) within a watercourse;

(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

g. Northern Cape

(ii) Outside urban areas:

(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

Activity No. 18 (g)(ii)(ee) of GN. R324 of April 2017 (as amended)

The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre;

g. Northern Cape

(ii) Outside urban areas:

(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

At Mooi Plaats Solar Energy Facility (SEF) near Noupoort, which falls within the jurisdiction of Umsobomvu Local municipality, Pixeley ka Seme District in the Northern Cape Province. With the following co-ordinates;

Powerline 1

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	17'	39.933"	24°	43'	52.113"
31°	17'	26.517"	24°	43'	19.675"
31°	17'	32.309"	24°	44'	46.126"

Powerline 2

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	16'	43.404"	24°	45'	37.149"
31°	17'	13.282"	24°	45'	17.968"
31°	17'	32.243"	24°	44'	47.006"

Powerline 3

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	17'	32.571"	24°	44'	43.027"
31°	19'	54.655"	24°	46'	21.662"
31°	21'	21.246"	24°	49'	9.274"

Road 1

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	18'	20.582"	24°	43'	40.232"
31°	18'	36.778"	24°	43'	45.381"
31°	18'	58.410"	24°	43'	44.862"

Road 2

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	17'	24.692"	24°	44'	28.587"
31°	17'	30.970"	24°	44'	8.613"
31°	17'	40.211"	24°	43'	48.797"

Road 3

LATITUDE (S) (DDMMSS)			LONGITUDE (E) (DDMMSS)		
31°	18'	8.741"	24°	45'	20.578"
31°	18'	9.641"	24°	45'	21.865"
31°	18'	10.541"	24°	45'	23.152"

Hereafter referred to as "the property".

The applicant appointed SLR Consulting (South Africa) PTY LTD to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment process. The Basic Assessment process was followed.

2. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration –

- (i) The Environmental Assessment Practitioner complied with Regulation 19 of April 2017.
- (ii) Public participation followed is in line with Regulation 41 of 19 April 2017 and the proof and response was submitted together with the final Basic Assessment Report in March 2023.
- (iii) This is a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) and extension from the already assessed and approved Mooi Plaats SEF development site (14/12/16/3/3/2/1134) and Grid connection (14/12/16/3/3/2/1132) respectively.
- (iv) The additional developments are to optimize the layout and to be bid in the Renewable Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP) which is aimed at bringing additional

megawatts onto the country's electricity system through private sector investment in renewable energy.

- (v) The information contained in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated May 2023. Submitted by Mr. Stuart Heather-Clark (SLR Consulting (South Africa) PTY LTD).
- (vi) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the final Basic Assessment Report (BAR).
- (vii) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including sections 2 and 23 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) and the Northern Cape Conservation Act, 2009 (Act No. 9 of 2009).
- (viii) The findings of the site visit undertaken by Mr. Mthombeni and Ms. Madisa (Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform) and the EAP Consultant during site inspection on 16 August 2023.

3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered 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 EAP who prepared the report has the expertise to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (S&EI) procedures.
- b) Impacts of the proposed activity on the receiving environment were described in terms of geographical, physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects.
- c) The final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) identified all legislation and guidelines it considered in preparing the report.
- d) The EAP considered comments from interested and affected parties and incorporated them into making the Basic Assessment Report (BAR).
- e) The need and desirability for the proposed activity is urgent, the development is for a SIP project.

4. 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 Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated May 2023.
- b) Eskom has agreed to the construction of a Main Transmission Substation (MTS) to deliver electricity to the Eskom systems meet minimum Eskom specifications and operations.
- c) Access road for the abnormal loads delivering the transformers on trucks and trailers to site and for future maintenance and operations.
- d) Road is in an Ecological Support Area (ESA) only.
- e) On the development site, there is an Verreux's Eagle nest that has buffer zone to be implemented around the foot slope of the nest.
- f) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- g) All interested and affected parties had no objections to the project.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorization, the proposed activity 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 proposed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The application is accordingly granted.