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SAHRA Case No.: 5751

14 October 2020

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY CALLED RHODES SOLAR PARK 1, JOE MOROLONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, JOHN TAOLO GAETSEWE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

FOR ATTENTION: NATASHA HIGGIT

Dear Madam,

Rhodes Solar Park 1 (SAHRIS Case 5751) received Environmental Authorisation (EA) on 12 December 2014. An application for an amendment on the EA was submitted to the department, on 11 April 2017, for an extension of the EA, and was issued on 9 May 2017. A second application for an amendment on the EA was submitted on 13 September 2019 for a change in the installation technology of the PV Solar Plant and was granted 13 February 2020. The third application for an amendment was submitted, again for the extension of the validity period. This application was submitted on 14 February 2020 and the amended EA was issued on 18 February 2020.

The Risk Mitigation Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (RMIPPPP) was issued on 23 August 2020. The purpose of Rhodes Solar Park 1 is to add new capacity for the generation of renewable electric energy to the national electricity supply in compliance with the RMIPPPP. To participate in this round, the project company needs to adhere to an extensive list of requirements.

Subject to this process, all environmental compliances are being re-assessed which includes SAHRA heritage comment. SAHRA provided an Interim Comment on the initial HIA in 2014 requesting clarification on the project scope as well as the assessment of two sections of 132kV power lines noted in the initial BID Document. It should be noted that the Rhodes 1 Solar Facility and the Rhodes 2 Solar Facility was split into two applications, where the Rhodes 2 project received SAHRA approval under Case 9133. In addition, the power lines were subsequently removed from the project EA and they are currently being assessed as another BA application under SAHRIS Case 15441. The applicant requests the re-perusal of this Case to obtain Final Comment from SAHRA.

Please don't hesitate to contact AGES should there be any further queries.

Kind Regards,

Ms. E Grobler
Environmental Assessment Practitioner

