forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA ·0001· Environment House ·473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2415
Enquiries: Mr Thando Booi
Telephone: (012) 399 9387 **E-mail:** TBooi@environment.gov.za

Ms Andrea van Gensen
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
P.O. Box 606
KIMBERLEY
8301

Telephone number: (053) 830 5775
Cell phone number: (082) 482 7579
Email Address: vgenseal@eskom.co.za

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms van Gensen

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED MIER RIETFONTEIN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM IN THE DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN ZF MGCAWU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Department has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000, you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998 National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the 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 registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

Appeals must be submitted in writing in the prescribed form to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko
Arcadia
Pretoria
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal 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.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully

Mr Vusi Skosana
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 06 January 2022

cc:	Natalie Kohler	Golder Associates Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: nkohler@golder.co.za

forestry, fisheries & the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

Proposed Mier Rietfontein solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) within the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province

ZF Mgcawu District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	*14/12/16/3/3/1/2415*
Last amended:	*First issue*
Holder of authorisation:	*Eskom Holdings SOC Limited*
Location of activity:	*Portion 0 and Portion 130 of Farm Mier No 585, Ward 16 of Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality within ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province*

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 activity.

Decision

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

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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

ESKOM HOLDINGS SOC LIMITED

with the following contact details –

Andrea van Gensen
P.O. Box 606
KIMBERLEY
8301

Telephone number:	(053) 830 5775
Cell phone number:	(082) 482 7579
Email Address:	vgenseal@eskom.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
Listing Notice 1, Item 1(ii): *"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where—* *(ii) the output is 10 megawatts or less but the total extent of the facility covers an area in excess of 1 hectare;* *excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs:* *(a) within an urban area; or* *(b) on existing infrastructure"*	The proposed development will be 10 ha in extent, which is in excess of the 1 ha threshold. It will consist of 12 independent PV blocks of with a total installed capacity of 2.04 MW, and 11 independent BESS with a total installed capacity of 6.16 MWh. The proposed development is located outside of an urban area and will not occur on existing infrastructure.
Listing Notice 1, Item 27: *"The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for-* *(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or* *(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan"*	The proposed solar PV and BESS project site will require the clearance of approximately 10ha of indigenous vegetation, which is in excess of the 1ha threshold.
Listing Notice 1, Item 28(ii): *"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 1998 and where such development:* *(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare"* *excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retails, commercial, industrial, or institutional purpose.*	The land to be developed is approximately 10ha outside an urban area. Although, the preferred site is zoned as agricultural (according to the district municipality), it is currently vacant land and not used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation.

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated November 2021 at:

SG 21 Code

C	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	5	0	0	0	0	0
C	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	5	0	0	1	3	0

PV Facility and BESS	Latitude	Longitude
A	26°45'11.972" S	20°0'31.535" E
B	26°45'22.690" S	20°0'31.442" E
C	26°45'22.655" S	20°0'26.393" E
D	26°45'19.477" S	20°0'19.236" E
E	26°45'21.611" S	20°0'15.951" E
F	26°45' 23.794" S	20°0'1.700" E
G	26°45' 25.272" S	20°0'1.176" E
H	26°45' 25.240" S	19°59' 59.938" E
I	26°45' 24.119" S	20° 0'0.000" E
J	26°45' 22.843" S	20° 0'1.307" E
K	26°45' 20.704" S	20° 0'15.469" E
L	26°45' 18.802" S	20° 0'17.716" E
M	26°45' 11.921" S	20° 0'24.269" E

TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER SITE COORDINATES	Latitude	Longitude
A	26°46' 31.355"S	20°22'3.430"E
B	26°46' 31.358"S	20°22'3.973"E
C	26°46' 31.845"S	20°22'3.970"E
D	26°46' 31.842"S	20°22'3.427"E

- for the proposed Mier Rietfontein solar PV and BESS, in ward 16, Portion 0 and Portion 130 of Farm Mier No 585, in the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality within the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

<u>The development will comprise the following:</u>

- Twelve (12) independent PV blocks of 170 kilowatt (kW) each, with a total installed capacity of 2040kW (or 2.04 megawatts

- Eleven (11) independent BESS of 140kW (560 kWh) each, with a total installed capacity of 1540kW (or 1.54MW) and 6160kWh (or 6.16 MWh).
- The installation of these PV blocks and BESS will be staggered according to the expected growth in electrical demand consisting of:
  - Initial installation of 5 x 170 kW PV blocks and 4 x 140 kW BESS for the "electrification scenario";
  - Installation of an additional 3 x 170 kW PV blocks and 3 x 140 kW BESS for the "Large power Users (LPUs) scenario"; and
  - Installation of an additional 4 x PV blocks and 4 x 140 kW for the "unforeseen demand scenario".
- A telecommunications tower with a footprint of 15 x 15m² (with a small equipment room) to the proposed BESS is required, and will be positioned close to the village of Groot Mier. The charging of the BESS from the PV blocks will be done via network control, allowing for the PV blocks and BESS to operate independently from each other.

The project entails the following infrastructure to be developed:

Infrastructure Description	Infrastructure Description
BESS	A total of 11 independent Lithium ion BESS of 140kW (560kWh) each will be installed. The total installed capacity of the BESS will be 1540kW (6 160kWh). The BESS will be housed within standard shipping containers (~63m²). Assuming that the BESS density is 2MWh per container (worst case scenario), at least three containers will be required, with a total footprint of 189m².
PV modules	PV modules are made up of PV cells that generate electricity on exposure to solar radiation. It is proposed that poly crystalline silicon ("multi c-Si") PV modules will be used. These PV modules are based on poly crystalline cells, which are manufactured by melting many fragments of silicon together to form the wafers that are used in the PV cells. The main advantages of these PV modules is the relatively good efficiency, low cost per unit, proven technology, and availability. The main

	disadvantage of these PV modules is the lower efficiency when compared to other PV modules, such as mono crystalline silicon PV modules. The PV modules will be connected in series to form strings. Each string will consist of 16 PV modules. These strings will be combined via combiner boxes to form PV blocks. Each block will consist of 38 strings with a total of 608 PV modules. The PV modules will be north facing with a tilt angle of 25 degrees. The tilt angle of the PV modules is typically based on the latitude, which is approximately 27 degrees at the preferred site. Currently, the Canadian Solar Inc. CS6X-320P is the preferred PV module technology option. Each module is 320 WDC with a nominal efficiency 16.82%.
Mounting structures	The PV modules will be mounted at the appropriate orientation to the sun using fixed mounting structures. The fixed mounting structure will consist of two rows of PV modules, with a top and bottom row. A total of 64 PV panels will be installed on each structure (i.e. four strings). The distance between each structure is approximately 7.76m. This is to allow for a 4m wide road for cleaning and maintenance, as well as shadowing effects of adjacent rows. The height of each structure will be up to 3.5m
Inverters	Inverters will be used to convert the direct current ("DC") electricity from the PV modules to the alternative current ("AC") electricity at grid frequency. Each 170kW PV block will have a 200kW inverter. The size of the inverter is greater than the output of the PV block to account for

VS

	days with higher solar irradiance where the PV block output could exceed the inverter size. Currently, the Ingeteam Energy S.A. INGECON SUN 200 TL U 330 is the preferred inverter technology option. It is proposed that each inverter will be housed in a MV Inverter Cabin together with a LV switchboard, step-up transformer, MV switchgear and protection, and an LV/LV auxiliary supply transformer.
Step-up transformers	Transformers will be used to step up the voltage from low voltage ("LV") at the output of the inverter to the required medium voltage ("MV") at the point of connection. Each 170kW PV block will have a LV/MV transformer. Either liquid immersed or non-liquid immersed transformers will be used. If liquid immersed transformers are used, then secondary containment will be provided to prevent oil leakage.
Auxiliary transformers	Two 3.3/0.4kV auxiliary transformers will be installed to supply power to the auxiliaries of the proposed project. Auxiliary loads include heating, ventilation, and cooling ("HVAC") systems, lighting, socket outlets, security systems (perimeter lighting, cameras, gate motors, etc.), battery tripping units ("BTUs"), unlimited power supply ("UPS"), telephones, fire detection, and so on. It is proposed that these transformers will be tapped from the overhead line prior to the Mier substation connection
MV switchgear	MV switchgear will be used to enable power distribution and electrical protection up to the point of connection. Each 170kW PV block will have MV switchgear, which will be housed in a

	MV Inverter Cabin. Ring Main Unit ("RMU") switchgear is the preferred technology option due to the low fault and current ratings, simple protection and control capabilities, and lower cost, space, and maintenance requirements.
Battery tripping units	BTUs will be used to provide DC supply to the switchgear control and protection circuits. These BTUs will be housed in a MV Inverter Cabin.
Uninterruptable power supply ("UPS")	An UPS system, including battery backup, will be used to provide 230 Vac power to the server room, control room, and network panels.
AC cables	Underground AC cables will be used to connect the PV and BESS to the Mier switching station, while overhead cables will connect the Mier switching station to the existing Rietfontein 33kV feeder. Cross linked polyethylene cable ("XLPE") will be used for the AC cables as it is lighter, has better electrical and thermal properties, less maintenance, and easier terminating procedure. XLPE cable is also available country wide and has been used in most installations.
Operating & maintenance ("O&M") building	The O&M building will be 200m² in extent, and include a control room, office, ablution facilities, server and equipment room, and spares storeroom (for the storage of spare solar panels and electronic equipment).
Parking area	A vehicle parking area will be located close to the O&M building. This parking area will have sufficient capacity for a minimum of four vehicles
Potable water supply and reticulation	Potable water is required to service the two personnel who will be working in the O&M building from time to time. The potable water will be used for domestic purposes, namely drinking, cleaning, and ablution facilities. The preferred

	option is to source potable water from the municipal water distribution network. However, if this is option is not technically or financially viable, alternative water sources will be investigated. This includes the transport of potable water to site using water tankers or the onsite abstraction and treatment of groundwater. Potable water will be stored in a closed water tank with a capacity 2000ℓ. This is approximately one week's supply to the two staff that will be onsite from time to time. The water tank will be positioned to ensure water supply of at least 2 bar pressure to all outlets using gravity feed or pump system. The water tank will have an inlet valve for filling, drain nozzle, and outlet valve for supplying potable water to the O&M building. The tank will also have an overfill protection, low level, and high-level indicators.
Process water supply and reticulation	Process water is required for PV module washing and dust suppression activities. The quality of the water required for PV module washing will be based on the requirements of the manufacturer. This is likely to be potable water quality at a minimum. Preliminary estimates are that the PV modules will need to be cleaned twice a year, in June and September, or when reference cells show a difference of global horizontal irradiance ("GHI") measurements of greater than 50Wh/m2. The preferred option is to source process water from the municipal water distribution network. However, if this is option is not technically or financially viable, alternative water sources will be investigated. This includes the transport of potable water to site using water tankers or the

	onsite abstraction and treatment of groundwater. The PV modules will be cleaned using taps located at various locations around the site. The distance between each tap will be less than 50m.
Sewage disposal	Sewage disposal is required for the two personnel who will be working in the O&M building from time to time. The preferred option is to link into the municipal sewage disposal infrastructure. However, if this is option is not technically or financially viable, alternative sewage disposal options will be investigated. This includes the use of onsite sanitation such as portable toilets during construction.
Roads	Access to the site will be from R31 via 5m wide access road. In addition, there will also be a 5m wide perimeter road, 3m wide access roads to the inverters and transformers, and 5m wide internal roads for maintenance purposes. All the roads will be gravel with a polymer binder to minimise dust. All the roads will also have a suitable drainage system to control storm water runoff and to prevent erosion.
Telecommunications tower	Microwave links are reliable means of telecommunication network to connect to the existing network and is required to ensure communication to the solar PV and BESS project site. In order for this option to work, a new telecommunications tower site (15m x 15m) will be established. The new radio links will be installed between Mier substation to the middle site then to Andriesvale radio station. No guy wires will be used for the tower. The tower will have an equipment container (3m x 4m)

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed Mier Rietfontein solar PV and BESS, in ward 16, Portion 0 and Portion 130 of Farm Mier No 585 in the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality, ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Northern Cape Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental 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 Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. 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.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this Environmental Authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
    11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
    11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
    11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
    11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended 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 has been finalised.

Management of the activity

13. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to the registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. The recommended 10m buffer around the *ephemeral vegetation* must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
    13.1. The position of the solar PV panels and telecommunication tower;
    13.2. A 10m buffer around ephemeral vegetation;
    13.3. All associated infrastructure;
    13.4. All sensitive features; and
    13.5. All "no-go" and buffer areas.

14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the BAR is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map. The EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The amended EMPr must include the final layout map.
16. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
17. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
18. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

19. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 28 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
22. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
23. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments

to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

24. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
    24.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
    24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
    24.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
    24.4. 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.

Recording and reporting to the Department

25. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
26. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
27. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
28. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
29. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must 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 approved EMPr.

30. 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.

Notification to authorities

31. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. 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, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

32. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

33. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation 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 at that time.

Specific conditions

34. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a watercourse without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Human Settlement, Water and Sanitation.
35. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
36. The development area must not be cleared in a random manner. Only holes must be drilled for the solar panels and natural vegetation must be left intact as far as possible.
37. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of protected or endangered plant or animal species.
38. Measures must be implemented to control the alien invasive flora species (*Prosopis species*) around the farm dams that are located downstream of the study area.

39. A 10m buffer around the ephemeral vegetation must be implemented to ensure protection or prevent disturbance.
40. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
41. Anti-erosion control measures (e.g. rock packs) must be implemented at points susceptible to erosion.
42. Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed in other areas during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.
43. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

44. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
    44.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
    44.2. to anyone on request; and
    44.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
45. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her 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 holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 06 January 2022

Mr Vusi Skosana
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

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

a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form and amended application form as well as additional information received on 20 August 2021, 11 November 2021 and 06 December 2021 respectively.
b) The information contained in the BAR dated November 2021.
c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated November 2021.
d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr.
e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated November 2021 and as appears below:

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account 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 findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
b) This project aims to address more energy required by Eskom, provided by Nampower which is contracted to make 1.5MWA to Eskom via Rietfontein – Rietfontein 33kV overhead line.
c) The BAR dated November 2021 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
d) The location of the proposed development which avoid identified sensitive areas.
e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated November 2021 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
f) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

3. 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 BAR dated November 2021 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.

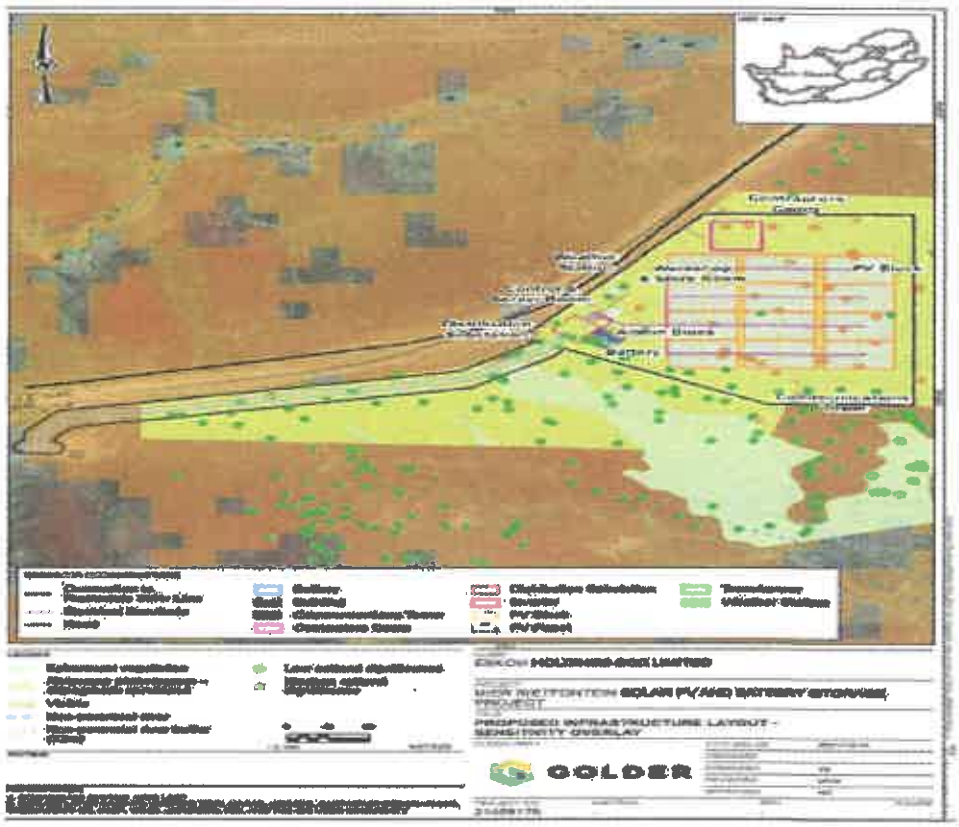
b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.

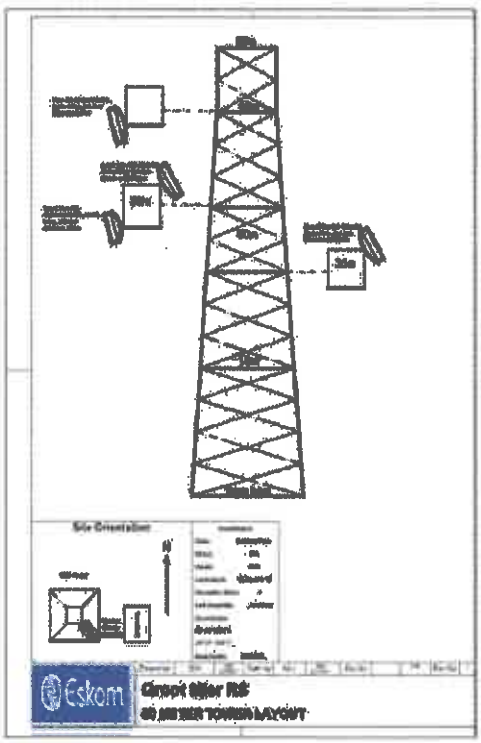
c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.

d) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities 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 authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

Layout map


PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE LAYOUT -
SENSITIVITY OVERLAY
GOLDER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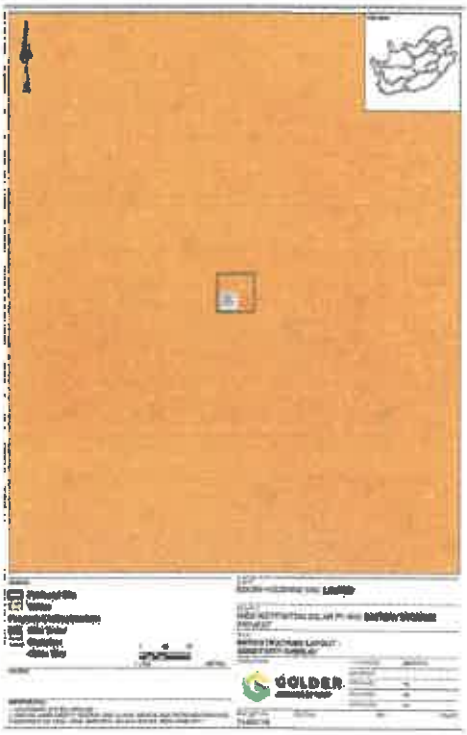
GOLDER