

31 March 2017

DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1600

Dear Stakeholder,

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS
10MW SCUITDRIFT PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NORTH
WEST OF AUGRABIES, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

NOTIFICATION OF GRANTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION BY
DEA

Scuitdrift Solar Project (Pty) Ltd submitted an application for environmental authorisation to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), for the 10MW Scuitdrift Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility on the farm Skuitdrift 426 North West of the town Augrabies within the Kai !Garib Local Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

The applicant hereby advises registered interested and affected parties, as instructed by the decision issued by the DEA on 23 March 2017, and in terms of Regulation 4(2), of the outcome of the application for environmental authorisation. The DEA granted environmental authorisation for the abovementioned project.

The reasons for the decision are outlined in the EA and are as follows:

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 received on 04 July 2016.
- b) The information contained in the final BAR dated November 2016.
- c) The comments received from the Department of Water and Sanitation, Eskom, SKA-SA, SAHRA, the Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Telkom, interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated November 2016.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr dated November 2016.

- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated November 2016.

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) Details provided of the qualifications of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).
- b) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- c) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- d) The BAR dated November 2016 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated November 2016.
- e) The description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activity.
- f) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated November 2016 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- g) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 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 2016 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) The information contained in the BAR dated November 2016 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- e) 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 DEA 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 activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

A copy of the environmental authorisation, conditions for authorisation, as well as reasons for the decision can be requested by sending an email to gabriele@savannahsa.com.

NOTICE OF APPEAL PROCESS

As an interested and affected party, your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. 933, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Should you wish to appeal the decision by DEA, you 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 registered interested and affected parties by the applicant (i.e. 31 March 2017).

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

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review

Tel: (012) 399 9356

Email: AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za

By post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001

By hand: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria.

Please note that appeals should be submitted to National DEA and not to the consultant (Savannah Environmental).

Kind regards

GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL