



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2086/1/AM1
Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga
Telephone: (012) 399 9405 **E-mail:** tnyalunga@dfffe.gov.za

Sediba Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
Mr Dick Berlijn
P O Box 785553
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number +27 01 500 3680
Cellphone Number +27 742 488 488
E-mail Address: berlijn@subsolar.co.za

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Berlijn

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 150MW SEDIBA PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM KLIPRUG NO. 344, REGISTRATION DIVISION PARYS, SITUATED WITHIN THE NGWATHE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE 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 fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, 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

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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@dffe.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@dffe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 27/04/2023

cc:	Ms Lisa Opperman	Environamics CC	Email: lisa@environamics.co.za
	Ms Grace Mkhosana	Free State DETEA	Email: mkhosana@detea.fs.gov.za
	Mr B William Kannemeyer	Ngwathe Local Municipality	Email: magautal@ngwathe.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

The development of the Sediba solar power plant and associated infrastructure situated within the
Ngwathe Local Municipality, Free State Province

Fezile Dabi District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2086/1/AM1
Last amended:	Second issue
Holder of authorisation:	Sediba Solar Power Plant (RF) (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	Solar Power Plant: Remaining Extent of the Farm Kliprug No. 344, Ward 4, Ngwathe Local Municipality, Free State 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 –

SEDIBA SOLAR POWER PLANT (RF) (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Dick Berlijn
P O Box 785553
SANDTON
2146

Telephone Number +27 01 500 3680
Cellphone Number +27 742 488 488
E-mail Address: berlijn@subsolar.co.za

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1, 2 and Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended:

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>GN R. 327 Item 11</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts."</i></p>	<p>The proposed photovoltaic solar facility will transmit and distribute electricity of 132 kilovolts outside an urban area. The infrastructure required to be developed includes one 132kV power line and a 132kV on-site substation.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 327 Item 14</u></p> <p><i>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres."</i></p>	<p>The proposed development will need to develop infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (diesel and oils) in closed containers to be located on bunded surfaces with a capacity of 80 cubic metres, to be located within the development footprint of the project.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 327 Item 24</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road</i></p> <p><i>(ii) with reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 meters."</i></p>	<p>The internal roads of the solar power plant will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 327 Item 28</u></p> <p><i>"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</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare."</i></p>	<p>The portions of the affected farm have been previously used for grazing and the property will be re-zoned to "special" use. The development footprint of the project will be 245ha (which was assessed within a 270ha area within the affected property</p>
<p><u>GN R. 327, Item 56</u></p> <p><i>"The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres..."</i></p>	<p>The existing access does not have a reserve and will need to be widened by more than 6 metres.</p>

<p><u>GN R. 325, Item 1</u></p> <p><i>"The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more."</i></p>	<p>The photovoltaic solar facility will generate up to 150 megawatts electricity.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 325, Item 15</u></p> <p><i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation."</i></p>	<p>In terms of vegetation type the preferred site falls within the Dry Highveld Grassland Bioregion, more precisely the Vredefort Dome Granite Grassland which is described by Mucina and Rutherford (2006) as 'endangered'. Activity 15 is triggered since portions of the site has not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years; therefore, more than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation will be removed. The development footprint of the project will be 245ha (which was assessed within a 270ha area within the affected property).</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324, Item 4</u></p> <p><i>"The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres</i></p> <p>(b) in the Free State,</p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas, within</i></p> <p><i>(ee) critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans and</i></p> <p><i>(gg) areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites"</i></p>	<p>The internal roads will vary between 6 and 12 meters in width and will not have a reserve of more than 13,5 metres. The project is located in the Free State Province, outside urban areas. A portion of the proposed power line corridor (Option 2) is located within a CBA 2, which will include a service road of 4-5 metres. The project is located within 10 km of the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324, Item 10</u></p> <p><i>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres</i></p> <p>(b) in the Free State,</p>	<p>The proposed development will need to develop infrastructure for the storage and handling of dangerous goods (diesel and oils) in containers with a capacity of 80 cubic metres. The project is located within the Free State Province, within 10 km of the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site</p>

<p><i>(i) outside urban areas, in</i> <i>(gg) areas within 10 kilometres form national parks or world heritage sites and</i> <i>(hh) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p>	<p>and valley bottom wetlands are located in close proximity to the site. Therefore, the development will take place within 10 km of a World Heritage Site and within 100 m of the edge of a watercourse or wetland.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324, Item 12</u> <i>“The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation</i> <i>(b) in the Free State</i> <i>(i) within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004,</i> <i>(ii) within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans and</i> <i>(vi) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p>	<p>The proposed development is located in the Free State province and portions of the site has not been lawfully disturbed during the preceding ten years and therefore indigenous vegetation is present on the site. The site is located within the Vredefort Dome Granite Grassland which is classified as ‘endangered’. A portion of the proposed power line corridor (Option 2) is located within a CBA 2. Valley bottom wetlands are located in close proximity to the site and located in the proposed power line corridor. Therefore, more than 300 square meters of indigenous vegetation, listed as endangered and which is classified as CBA 2, will be removed which is located within 100m of a watercourse. The development footprint of the project will be 245ha (which was assessed within a 270ha area within the affected property).</p>
<p><u>GN R. 324, Item 18</u> <i>“The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre</i> <i>(b) in the Free State</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas,</i> <i>(gg) areas within 10 kilometres form national parks or world heritage sites and</i> <i>(hh) areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p>	<p>The existing access road to the site will need to be widened by more than 4 metres. The project is located within the Free State Province, outside urban areas and within 10 km of the Vredefort Dome World Heritage Site. Valley bottom wetlands are located in close proximity to the site. Therefore, a road will be widened by more than 4 metres within 10 km of a World Heritage Site and within 100 m of a watercourse or wetland.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) dated December 2021 at:

GPS Co-ordinates proposed facility

Coordinates	Latitude	Longitude
Project site		
A	26°56'11.38"S	27°28'12.76"E
B	26°56'33.78"S	27°28'26.47"E
C	26°56'58.18"S	27°28'38.42"E
D	26°57'6.42"S	27°28'27.94"E
E	26°57'26.31"S	27°28'18.25"E
F	26°57'38.32"S	27°27'49.98"E
G	26°57'29.59"S	27°27'10.89"E
H	26°57'23.44"S	27°27'15.78"E
I	26°57'15.56"S	27°27'26.66"E
J	26°56'51.56"S	27°27'44.92"E
K	26°56'51.12"S	27°27'58.06"E
L	26°56'38.51"S	27°28'5.12"E
Proposed access		
1	26°56'14.90"S	27°28'11.94"E
2 Western portion	26°57'1.65"S	27°27'51.40"E
3 Eastern portion	26°57'2.66"S	27°27'53.11"E
IPP Substation		
1	26°56'27.20"S	27°28'16.01"E
2	26°56'25.40"S	27°28'17.95"E
3	26°56'28.69"S	27°28'19.06"E
4	26°56'29.47"S	27°28'17.18"E
Eskom Substation		
1	26°56'26.40"S	27°28'17.95"E
2	26°56'25.70"S	27°28'19.60"E
3	26°56'27.97"S	27°28'20.77"E
4	26°56'28.69"S	27°28'19.06"E
Battery energy storage		
A	26°56'27.55"S	27°28'13.89"E

B	26°56'30.70"S	27°28'15.54"E
C	26°56'30.67"S	27°28'17.33"E
D	26°56'34.77"S	27°28'17.35"E
E	26°56'34.83"S	27°28'8.23"E
F	26°56'29.13"S	27°28'9.95"E

Farm portion and SG code

<u>Farm portion</u>	<u>SG code</u>
Solar Power Plant:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Extent of the farm Kliprug No. 344 	F02500000000034400000

Technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	6 meters
Area of PV Array	245 Hectares (Development footprint) placed within an assessed area of 270ha
Number of inverters required	Minimum 50
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations / BESS	Central inverters+ LV/MV trafo: 20 m ² HV/MV substation with switching station: 15 000 m ² BESS: 40 000m ² / 4ha
Capacity of on-site sub- and switching station	Minimum 130MVA in HV/MV substation / 132kV
Capacity of the power line	132kV
Power Line servitude	32m
Area occupied by the construction laydown areas	~17 300m ² / 1.73ha – as per the confirmed information associated with the final layout
Area occupied by buildings	Security Room: ~60 m ² Office: ~200 m ² Staff Locker and Changing Room: ~200 m ²
Battery storage facility	Maximum height: 8 m Maximum volume: 1740 m ³ Capacity: 500MWh
Length of internal roads	Approximately 20 km
Width of internal roads	Between 6 & 12 meters

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Proximity to grid connection	Approximately 0.22km/220m (preferred grid connection corridor (Option 1), which will be a loop-in loop –out connection)
Height of fencing	Approximately 2.5 meters

-for the development of the 150MW Sediba Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the farm Kliprug No. 344, Registration Division Parys, situated within the Ngwathe Local Municipality, Free State Province, hereafter referred to as “the property”.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of the 150MW Sediba Photovoltaic Solar Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the farm Kliprug No. 344, Registration Division Parys, situated within the Ngwathe Local Municipality, Free State Province is hereby 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.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. 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.

10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request;
and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. 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

12. The layout plan for the Solar Power Plant and associated infrastructure, including the BESS and the on-site facility substation, is approved.
13. The Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), for the development of the 150MW Sediba photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the farm Kliprug No. 344, Registration Division Parys, situated within the Ngwathe Local Municipality, Free State Province dated March 2023, is approved.
14. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the substation (the relevant section that will be maintained by the Independent Power Producer), is approved.
15. The EMPrs must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. They shall be seen as dynamic documents and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
16. Changes to the approved EMPrs must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPrs, should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

18. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 22 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.
19. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. 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

23. 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.
 - 23.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 23.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.

- 23.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 23.4. 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

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report 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.
28. 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.
29. 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

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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

33. Suitable bird repelling structures and bird diverters must be considered to avoid collision of birds with the PV facility.
34. Monitoring of implementation of mitigation controls, along with reporting, must be undertaken at least quarterly throughout the construction phase, and bi-annually during the operational phase. Monitoring, at the minimum, should consist of:
- 34.1. Quarterly monitoring of the PV array area for evidence of PV collisions.
 - 34.2. Bi-annual monitoring of the resident avifaunal population, including priority species, to compare the impacts to the baseline avifaunal community description in this report.
35. Should archaeologically sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.
36. The ECO must monitor all substantial surface clearance operations and excavations into sedimentary rocks for fossil remains on an on-going basis during the construction phase.
37. Final walk-through to locate Species of Conservation Concern that can be trans-located or avoided must be undertaken with an experienced and qualified ecologist.
38. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or nationally protected species.
39. 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

40. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 40.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 40.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 40.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
41. 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: 27/04/2023



Mr Sabelo Malaza

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 received on 23 July 2021.
- b) The information contained in the EIAr dated December 2021.
- c) The comments received from Department of Water and Sanitation, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Eskom, Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport, Telkom and Interested and Affected Parties. and Interested and Affected Parties as included in the EIAr dated December 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the EIAr dated December 2021 and as appears below:

Name of Specialist	Title of specialist reports	Date issued
ASH Haagner	Avifaunal Impact Assessment	October 2021
Dr BJ Henning	Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	March 2021
Dr BJ Henning	Wetland Impact Assessment	March 2021
J van Schalkwyk	Heritage Impact Assessment	July 2021
Dr John Almond	Paleontological Impact Assessment	April 2021
Johan Lanz	Agricultural Compliance Statement	October 21
Johan Botha	Visual Impact Assessment	May 2021
Pro Marion Bamford	Social Impact Assessment	May 2021
Liza van Zly	Traffic Assessment	October 2021
Richards Roberts	Geotechnical feasibility investigation	June 2021

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) The proposed project is intended to form part of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy's (DMREs) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The REIPPP Programme aims to secure 14 725 Megawatts (MW) of new generation capacity from renewable energy sources, while simultaneously diversifying South Africa's electricity mix. According to the 2021 State of the Nation Address, Government will soon be initiating the procurement of an additional 11 800 MW of power from renewable energy, natural gas, battery storage and coal in line with the Integrated Resource Plan 2019 and fulfilling their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement which include the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Eskom, the largest greenhouse gas emitter of South Africa, has committed in principle to net zero emission by 2050 and to increase its renewable capacity.
- c) The EIAR dated December 2021 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAR.
- d) The location of the proposed project.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAR dated December 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 EIAR dated December 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 information contained in the EIAR dated December 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) 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 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.

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