



## environmental affairs

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NEAS Reference:** DEA/ EIA/0001284/2012

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/360

**Enquiries:** Ms Sindiswa Dlomo

**Telephone:** 012-395-1856 **Fax:** 012-320-7539 **E-mail:** [Sdlomo@environment.gov.za](mailto:Sdlomo@environment.gov.za)

Mr Reggie Niemand  
SolaireDirect Southern Africa  
Private Bag X18  
**RONDEBOSCH**  
7701

Fax no: 086-539-8346/021-685-9591

### **PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Mr Niemand

**APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543/544/545/546: PROPOSED SANNASPOS PV PLANT PHASE 1 (75MW) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LOCATED ON PORTION 0 OF FARM 1808 BESEMKOP AND PORTION 0 OF FARM 2962 LEJWE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 45 KM EAST OF BLOEMFONTEIN, MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN 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 10(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 12 (twelve) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 7 of the Regulations, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised in the attached document. Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Should the applicant or any other party wish to appeal any aspect of the decision a notice of intention to appeal must be lodged by all prospective appellants with the Minister, within 20 days of the date of the EA, by means of one of the following methods:

By facsimile: 0123207561;  
By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria, 0001; or  
By hand: 2nd Floor, Fedsure Building, North Tower,  
Cnr. Lilian Ngoyi (Van der Walt) and Pretorius Streets, Pretoria.

If the applicant wishes to lodge an appeal, it must also serve a copy of the 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, should you intend to submit an appeal.

Please include the Department (*Attention: Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations*) in the list of interested and affected parties, notified through your notification letter to interested and affected parties, for record purposes.

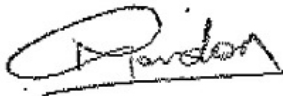
**Appeals must be submitted in writing to:**

Mr Z Hassam Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: 012-310-3271  
Email: [AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za](mailto:AppealsDirectorate@environment.gov.za)

The authorised activities shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation. Further, please note that the Minister may, on receipt of appeals against the authorisation or conditions thereof suspend the authorisation pending the outcome of the appeals procedure.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Mark Gordon**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**  
Date: 26/06/2013

CC:	Ms J Thomas	Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011-234-6621	Fax: 086-684-0547
	Mr C. Geldenhuys	Free State: EDT&EA	Tel: 051-400-9410	Fax: 086-732-7314
	Mr. S. Msibi	Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality	Tel: 051-405-8621	Fax: 051-405-8101
	Mr S Malaza	Compliance Monitoring (DEA)	Tel: 012-310-3397	Fax: 012-320-5744

**APPEALS PROCEDURE IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 7 OF THE NEMA EIA REGULATIONS, 2010 (THE REGULATIONS) AS PER GN R. 543 OF 2010 TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE APPLICANT AND INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES UPON RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA)**

<b>APPLICANT</b>	<b>INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)</b>
1. Receive EA from the relevant Competent Authority (the Department of Environmental Affairs [DEA]).	1. Receive EA from Applicant/Consultant.
2. Within 12 days of date of the EA notify all IAPs of the EA and draw their attention to their right to appeal against the EA in terms of Chapter 7 of the Regulations.	2. N/A.
3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).	3. If you want to appeal against the EA, submit a notice of intention to appeal within 20 days of the date of the EA, with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs (the Minister).
4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide each registered IAP with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.	4. After having submitted your notice of intention to appeal to the Minister, provide the applicant with a copy of the notice of intention to appeal within 10 days of lodging the notice.
5. The Applicant must also serve on each IAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection.</li> </ul>	5. Appellant must also serve on the Applicant within 10 days of lodging the notice, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a notice indicating where and for what period the appeal submission will be available for inspection by the applicant.</li> </ul>
6. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.	6. The appeal must be submitted to the Minister within 30 days after the lapsing of the period of 20 days provided for the lodging of the notice of intention to appeal.
7. Any IAP who received a notice of intention to appeal may submit a responding statement to that appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.	7. An Applicant who received notice of intention to may submit a responding statement to the appeal to the Minister within 30 days from the date that the appeal submission was lodged with the Minister.

**NOTES:**

**1. An appeal against a decision must be lodged with:-**

- the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs if the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;
- the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development if the applicant is the Department of Water Affairs and the decision was issued by the Director- General of the Department of Environmental Affairs (or another official) acting in his/ her capacity as the delegated Competent Authority;

**2. An appeal lodged with:-**

- the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;
- the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs;

**3. An appeal must be:-**

- submitted in writing;
- accompanied by:
  - a statement setting out the grounds of appeal;
  - supporting documentation which is referred to in the appeal; and
  - a statement that the appellant has complied with regulation 62 (2) or (3) together with copies of the notices referred to in regulation 62.





**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 36 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010

Sannaspos PV Plant Phase 1 (75MW) and associated infrastructure, located on Portion 0 of Farm 1808 Besemkop and Portion 0 of Farm 2962 Lejwe located approximately 45 km east of Bloemfontein Free State Province

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

<b>Authorisation register number:</b>	14/12/16/3/3/2/360
<b>NEAS reference number:</b>	DEA/EIA/0001284/2012
<b>Last amended:</b>	First issue
<b>Holder of authorisation:</b>	SolaireDirect South Africa (Pty) Ltd
<b>Location of activity:</b>	FREE STATE PROVINCE: Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality

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 authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

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 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010 the Department hereby authorises –

### **SolaireDirect South Africa (Pty) Ltd**

with the following contact details –

Mr. Reggie Neimand  
SolaireDirect Southern Africa  
Private Bag X18  
**RONDERBOSCH**  
7701

Tel: (021) 685-9377  
Fax: (021) 685 9591/ 086-593-8346  
Cell: (082) 674-1233  
E-mail: [rneimand@solairedirect.co.za](mailto:rneimand@solairedirect.co.za)



to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notices 1, 2 or 3 (GN R. 544, 545 & 546):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 10:</u>  <i>The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity –</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 kV but less than 275 kV; or</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kV or more;</i></p>	<p>Overhead power line with a capacity of 132 kV</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 11:</u>  <i>The construction of:</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>Bridges ;</i></p> <p>(x) <i>Buildings exceeding 50 square metres in size; or</i></p> <p>(xi) <i>infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse, excluding where such construction will occur behind the development setback line.</i></p>	<p>There may be drainage line on the development site which could be affected by the proposed development. this will be confirmed through the EIA process</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544 Item 18:</u>  <i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>There may be drainage line on the development site which could be affected by the proposed development. this will be confirmed through the EIA process</p>
<p><u>GN R. 545 Item 1:</u>  <i>The construction of facilities or infrastructure, for the generation of electricity where the output is 20 megawatts or more</i></p>	<p>The PV facility would be 75MW in capacity</p>
<p><u>GN R. 545 Item 15:</u>  <i>Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant derelict land for residential, retail, commercial, recreational. Industrial or institutional use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more; except where such physical alteration takes</i></p>	<p>The development footprint would be in excess of 20ha</p>



Listed activities	Activity/Project description
places for (i) Linear development activities. (ii) Agriculture; or afforestation where activity 16 in this schedule will apply	
<u>GN R. 546 Item 14 (a) (i):</u> The clearance of an area of 5 hectares of or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetation cover constitutes indigenous vegetation –	The site may constitute natural vegetation. To be confirmed through EIA process

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (BAR) dated February 2013 at:


Alternative (PV Facility)	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	29° 11' 37.64"	26° 35' 31.97"

Alternative (132 kV power line)	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	29° 11' 20.36"	26° 35' 20.97"
Middle point of activity	29° 11' 21.41"	26° 34' 58.55"
End point of activity	29° 11' 25.67"	26° 34' 37.46"

- for the proposed construction of the proposed Sannaspos PV Plant Phase 1 (75MW) and associated infrastructure located on Portion 0 of Farm 1808 Besemkop and Portion 0 of Farm 2962 Lejwe located approximately 45 km east of Bloemfontein, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

1. An on-site substation and 132kV overhead power line to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom grid;
2. Internal access roads;
3. Guard house;
4. Laydown, campsite and assembly area; and
5. Office and Control centre.



## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The Sannaspos Photovoltaic Plant Phase 1 (75MW) and associated infrastructure, located on Portion 0 of Farm 1808 Besemkop and Portion 0 of Farm 2962 Lejwe located approximately 45 km east of Bloemfontein which falls Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality at Free State Province is approved.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this 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 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.
6. This activity must commence within a period of three (3) years from the date of issue of this 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.
7. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
8. The holder of an environmental authorisation must notify the competent authority of any alienation, transfer and change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.





### **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 12 (twelve) 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 Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
  - 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.
11. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
  - 11.1. informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
  - 11.2. informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
  - 11.3. drawing the attention of interested and affected parties to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against this decision in the newspaper(s) contemplated and used in terms of regulation 54(2)(c) and (d) and which newspaper was used for the placing of advertisements as part of the public participation process.

### **Management of the activity**

12. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the Application for EA is hereby approved. This EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

### **Monitoring**

13. The applicant must appoint a suitably experienced independent 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 authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
  - 13.1. The ECO shall be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.



- 13.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 13.3. The ECO shall keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 13.4. The ECO shall remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.
- 13.5. 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.

#### **Recording and reporting to the Department**

14. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department.
15. The holder of the authorisation must 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 within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
16. The environmental audit report 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 EMPr.
17. 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.

#### **Commencement of the activity**

18. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
19. An appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), Act 107 of 1998 (as amended), does not suspend an environmental authorisation or exemption, or any provisions or conditions attached thereto, or any directive, unless the Minister, MEC or delegated organ of state directs otherwise.

20. Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorisation pending appeal procedures, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the Minister allows you to commence with such an activity in writing.

#### **Notification to authorities**

21. Fourteen (14) 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, as well as a reference number. This notification period may coincide with the notice of intent to appeal period.

#### **Operation of the activity**

22. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity operational phase will commence.

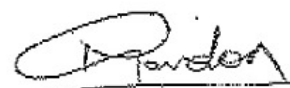
#### **Site closure and decommissioning**

23. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant shall 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**

24. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Water Affairs.
25. As per the South African Civil Aviation Authority requirements the facility must not exceed the maximum height restriction of 20.0m above ground level. The OHEPTL is restricted to 24m AGL.
26. A site management plan must be developed for *Site Sannas-1* (an informal cemetery of approximately 13 graves, oriented east to west, with stone dressing) and *Site Sannas-5* (A formal cemetery of approximately 08 graves, oriented east to west, with granite dressing and headstones). Both these sites must be fenced with and provided with a secure access gate. The fencing must be

- placed 2 meters away from the parameter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves.
27. *Site Sannas-3* must be documented and a permit must be obtained from the relevant authority for the demolition of this stone shed.
  28. A qualified Palaeontologist must be commissioned to undertake a ground reconnaissance before commencement of any construction activities and the Construction manager and ECO must report any fossil finds encountered during construction activities.
  29. Permission for an access from Farm Lejwe 2962 to tertiary road T91 must be obtained from provincial Department of Police, Roads and Transport (Directorate: Land Transport Planning)
  30. An application of a way leave must be submitted in any power line and/ or cable crosses and/or runs parallel with tertiary road T91, or any other provincial road.
  31. No structures, including power lines, must be established within a distance of 95.0 metres measured from the centre line of a secondary road S417 and tertiary road T91 without the written approval by Department of Police, Roads and Transport for the relaxation of the building line.
  32. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the avifaunal specialist. The input of an avifaunal specialist must be obtained for the fitting of the anti-collision devices onto specific sections of the line once the exact positions of the towers have been surveyed and pegged.
  33. Before clearing of the site, all protected species need to be identified, GPS's, and the appropriate permits obtained from the provincial authority for both TOPS and provincially protected species. If the province requires rescue and rehabilitation as part of the permit conditions, this needs to be included in the EMP. A detailed walkthrough study must be undertaken during optimal growing conditions (late November to early February) to enable all potentially rare and protected plant species to be recorded and relocated.
  34. A minimum buffer of 32m is maintained from drainage lines and a buffer of 100m must be maintained around riparian areas.
  35. A botanist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough of the alignment to identify sensitive plant species, and assist in identifying the areas that require protection.
  36. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of indigenous protected and endangered plant and animal species.
  37. Copies of all permits required for the proposed development must be submitted to the Department for record keeping and filing.
  38. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may



- be utilised.
39. Liaison with land owners/farm managers is to be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities. If possible, construction should be scheduled to take place within the post-harvest, pre planting season, when fields are lying fallow.
  40. The applicant is required to inform the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and this Department should the removal of protected species, medicinal plants and "data deficient" plant species be required.
  41. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
  42. Construction must include appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
  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 shall be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).

#### **General**

44. A copy of this authorisation and the approved EMPr must be kept at the property where the activity/ will be undertaken. The authorisation and approved EMPr 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.
45. The holder of the authorisation must notify both the *Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations* and the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* at the Department, in writing and within 48 (forty eight) hours, if any condition of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
46. 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 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 authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 26/06/2013

Mr Mark Gordon



Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

## 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 information contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated February 2013;
- b) The comments received from the South African National Roads Agency (SOC) Limited (SANRAL), South African Civil Aviation Authority, South African Heritage Resources Authority, Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and Department of Water Affairs, organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the EIAR dated February 2013;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAR dated February 2013 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the EIAR;
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).

### 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) Globally there is an increasing pressure on countries to increase their share of renewable energy generation due to concerns such as exploitation of non-renewable resources and climate change. In order to meet the long term goal of a sustainable renewable energy industry and to diversify the energy-generation mix in South Africa, a goal of 17.8 GW of renewable generation capacity has been set by the Department of Energy (DoE) within the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010. This energy will be produced mainly from wind, solar, biomass, and small scale hydro (with wind and solar comprising the bulk of the power generation capacity).



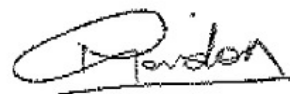
- c) In response to the above SolaireDirect South Africa (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish a commercial photovoltaic solar energy facility of up to 75 MW, as well as associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 45 km east of Bloemfontein in the Free State Province. Associated infrastructure includes the construction of a substation, access roads and power line/s
- d) The project development site is accessible from the N8 Highway towards Botshabelo linking into a secondary road S417 (gravel) and an existing access road (gravel) on the proposed farm portion this will be upgraded and used to access the facility site.
- e) The EIAR dated February 2013 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAR dated February 2013.
- f) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIAR dated February 2013 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, 2010 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 February 2013 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 EIAR dated February 2013 is 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 process.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, 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 environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Gordon", is located at the bottom right of the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.