



## environmental affairs

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

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia PRETORIA  
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

**NEAS Reference:** DEA/EIA/0002440/2014

**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/1201

**Enquiries:** Dakalo Netshiombo

**Telephone:** 012-399-8877 **E-mail:** DNetshiombo@environment.gov.za

Mr Terence Govender  
Solar Reserve South Africa (Pty) Ltd  
Office 11C, 11th Floor, Sinosteel Plaza  
159 Rivonia Road  
**SANDTON**  
2191

Tel no: 011 582 6880  
Fax no: 086 645 4229

### **PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Mr Govender

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998: GN R. 543, 544 AND 546: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF TWO 132KV POWER LINES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FROM THE REDSTONE SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY PLANT SITE TO OLIEN SUBSTATION NEAR LIME ACRES, 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 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 post: Private Bag X 447,  
Pretoria, 0001; or

By hand: Department of Environmental Affairs  
Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road  
Acardia  
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:**

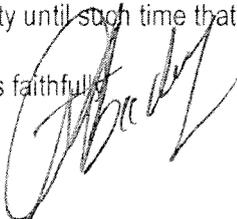
Mr Z Hassam Director: Appeals and Legal Review, of this Department at the above mentioned addresses or fax number. Mr Hassam can also be contacted at:

Tel: 012-399-9356

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 in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal under section 43 of that Act 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.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Ishaam Abader**

**Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance and Enforcement**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

Date: 9/12/2014

CC:	Ms A Gibb	SIVEST (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011 798 0600	Fax: 011 587 6525
	Mr D van Heerden	Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation	Tel: 053 807 7306	Fax: 086 625 6470
	Mr A Kasper	Tsantsabane Local Municipality	Tel: 041 509 3209	Fax: 053 313 1602



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)

APPLICANT	INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES (IAPs)
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 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 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 must be:-

- a) submitted in writing;
- b) 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

The construction of two 132kV power lines and associated infrastructure from the Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant site to Oliën Substation near Lime Acres, Northern Cape Province

ZF Ngcawu District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1201
NEAS reference number:	DEA/EIA/0002440/2014
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Solar Reserve South Africa (Pty)Ltd
Location of activity:	Within the Tsantsabane and Kgatelopele Local Municipality, 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 activity/ies 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 –

#### **SOLAR RESERVE SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD**

with the following contact details –

Terence Govender  
Solar Reserve South Africa (ACSA)  
Office 11C, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sinosteel Plaza, 159 Rivonia Road  
**SANDTON**  
2191



Department of Environmental Affairs

Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1 201

NEAS Reference Number: DEA/EIA/0002440/2014

Tel: 011 582 6880

Fax: 086 645 4229

Cell: 083 449 0433

E-mail: Terence.Govender@solarreserve.com

to undertake the following activity/ies (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in terms of GNR543, GN R544 and GN R546 of 18 June 2010:

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><i>GN R544 Item 10(i):</i></p> <p><i>The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity,</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban area or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>Two 132kV power lines and an on-site 3x40MVA 11/32kV step-up substation are required to connect the PV plant to the grid. The power line would be located outside of an urban area.</p>
<p><i>GN R. 544 Item 11:</i></p> <p><i>The construction of:</i></p> <p><i>(x) building exceeding 50 square metres in size; or</i></p> <p><i>(xi) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metre or more</i></p> <p><i>Where such construction occurs within a water course or within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.</i></p>	<p>The surface water impact assessment revealed that depending on the final alignment of the power line within the corridor it is likely that construction activities may need to take place within at least one of the twenty one drainage line identified within the study area.</p>
<p><i>GN R. 544 Item 18:</i></p> <p><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, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock from;</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse;</i></p> <p><i>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving</i></p>	<p>The surface water impact assessment revealed that depending on the final alignment of the power line within the corridor it is likely that construction activities may need to take place within at least one of the twenty one drainage line identified within the study area. During these construction activities, soil will be removed from</p>

Department of Environmental Affairs

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Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p>i. is for maintenance purposes undertaken with the watercourse. management plan agreed to by the relevant environmental authority; or</p> <p>(ii) occurs behind the development setback line</p>	

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated October 2014 at:

Preferred Route Alternative 1	Latitude	Longitude
Starting point of activity	28° 19.461'	23° 21.336'
Middle point of activity	28° 19.796'	23° 30.493'
End point of activity	28° 19.898'	23° 37.317'

-for the construction of two 132kV power lines and associated infrastructure from the Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant site to Olien Substation near Lime Acres, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The proposed project entails following:

- Construction of up to two (2) three-phase 132kV Kingbird power lines (or technically similar) from the proposed Redstone Solar Thermal Power Plant site to the Olien Substation as approved by Eskom's Technical Evaluation Forum;
- Expansion and installation of up to two (2) 132kV feeder bays and associated infrastructure at the Olien Main Transmission Substation (MTS);
- Construction of a 3x40MVA or 1 x 120MVA ,11/132kV step-up substation with up to 2x132kV feeder bays at the proposed Redstone Solar Thermal Power Project site (located outside the solar field);
- Construction of to two (2) switchyards (100mx100m) at the proposed Redstone Solar Thermal Power Project site (located outside the solar field);
- Possible restringing of the existing power line and construction of a temporary bypass line; and

- Establishment of all associated infrastructure as required by Eskom.

## Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

### Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred construction of two 132kV power line and associated infrastructure from the Redstone Solar Thermal Energy Plant site to Olien Substation near Lime Acres, Northern Cape Province.
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/ies must commence within a period of five (5) years from the date of issue of this authorisation. If commencement of the activity/ies does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity/ies 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/ies 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/ies.
10. The notification referred to must –
- 10.1. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
  - 10.2. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued
  - 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 must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity/ies.
  - 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 must meet with the contractors to discuss the conditions of the EA and the contents of the EMPr prior to any site clearing occurring.
  - 13.4. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
  - 13.5. 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

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. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 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/ies until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

**Notification to authorities**

20. Fourteen (14) days written notice must be given to the Department that the activity/ies 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/ies 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**

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

**Site closure and decommissioning**

22. Should the activity/ies 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**

23. Vegetation clearing must be kept to an absolute minimum. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion.
24. All construction activities and/or earthworks must be carried out within the limits of the authorised site.
25. All areas disturbed during the construction phase must be rehabilitated and re-seeded with indigenous plants at the end of the construction phase.
26. The necessary permits/license must to be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries prior to any protected species being destroyed or relocated.
27. No depositing of soil within 32m of the high water mark, this must be done at authorised areas at least 32m from the high water mark as guided by an ecologist.
28. Cement and concrete mixing must not to be done within 32m of the high water mark or near the culvert and not to be done on permeable surfaces. This must only be undertaken at authorised sites determined suitable by ecologist to ensure that this does not get into storm water.
29. No pylons must be placed directly in the bed of a river or drainage line, not even in a position of a water use license.
30. Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power line crosses avifaunal corridors, as recommended by the ecological specialist.
31. The applicant must obtain a Water Use Licence Authorisation (WULA) from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) prior to the commencement of the project should the applicant impact on any wetland or water resource. A copy of the WULA must be submitted to the Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations of this Department for record keeping.
32. 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. The principles of search and rescue of species must be explored prior to destruction.
33. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriately. 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 59 of 2008).



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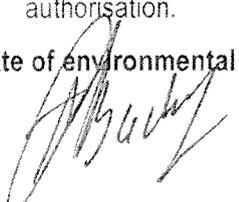
34. The findings with regard to the monitoring for avifaunal mortality and mitigation measure must be included in the audit report to be submitted to the department.
35. The findings of the pre-construction walk through must be submitted to the department for approval **only if there** are environmental sensitive features to be affected by the proposed activity.

**General**

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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:

9 DECEMBER 2014

  
Mr Ishaam Abader

Deputy Director-General: Legal, Authorisations, Compliance & Enforcement  
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 BAR dated October 2014;
- b. The comments received from the organs of state and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated October 2014;
- c. Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated October 2014 and the EMPr;
- d. The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix D of the BAR;
- 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 the specialist studies conducted and the recommended mitigation measures.
- b. The need for the proposed project is to connect the power generated by the Redstone Solar Thermal Power project into the national grid at the preferred Olien substation.
- c. The BAR dated October 2014 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d. The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated October 2014 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e. 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 -

1. The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated October 2014 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
2. The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
3. The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
4. EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the final 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.

