

Environmental Authorisation

Authorisation register number: EMB/11(i), 12(ii)(a)(c), 19, 24(ii), 27, 28(ii), 48(i)(a)(c), 56(ii), 4b(i)(bb)(gg), 12b(iv), 14(ii)(a)(c)(b)(i)(bb)(ff)(hh), 18b(i)(bb)(gg)(hh), 23(ii)(a)(c)b.(i)(bb)(gg)/23/18

Holder of Authorisation: *Bonsmara Solar PV (RF) (Pty) Ltd*

Location of activity: *On Portion 0 of Farm Scheveningen No. 636, Portion 1 of Farm Scheveningen No. 636, and Portion 0 of Farm Oslaagte No. 2564, south-east of Kroonstad, Moqhaka Local Municipality, Free State Province.*

Project description: *Activities 11(i), 12(ii)(a)(c), 19, 24(ii), 27, 28(ii), 48(i)(a)(c), 56(ii) of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327) and activities 4b(i)(bb)(gg), 12b(iv), 14(ii)(a)(c)(b)(i)(bb)(ff)(hh), 18b(i)(bb)(gg)(hh), 23(ii)(a)(c)b.(i)(bb)(gg) of Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324).*

The proposed development of Bonsmara on-site switching/collector substation and associated 132kV power line near Kroonstad.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
Department of Economic,
Small Business Development,
Tourism and Environmental Affairs

19 OCT 2023

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Decision

The Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA- 'the Department') is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation (EA), that the applicant must be authorised to undertake the activity 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 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activity authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act ('NEMA'), Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and GNR 326 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

Bonsmara Solar PV (RF) (Pty) Ltd

With the following contact details-

PO Box 762,
Wilderness,
7708

Contact person: Mr. Michael Mangnall

Cell: 083 785 1492

E-mail: mangnall@wkn-windcurrent.com



to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as “the activity”) indicated in Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327) and Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324):

Activity 11(i):

“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—

(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.

Activity 12(ii)(a)(c):

The development of:

ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs-

(a) within a watercourse;

(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse.

Activity 19:

The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;

Activity 24(ii):

The development of a road -

ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.

Activity 27:

The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—

(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or

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(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

Activity 28(ii):

The Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:

(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;

Activity 48(i)(a)(c):

The expansion of-

(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more;

where such expansion occurs—

(a) within a watercourse; or

(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

Activity 56(ii):

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 –

Activity 4b(i)(bb)(gg):

The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.

b. Free State

i. Outside Urban Areas:

(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;

(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;

(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere.

Activity 12b(iv):

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation.

b. Free State

iv. Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 meters from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.

Activity 14(ii)(a)(c)(b)(i)(bb)(ff)(hh):

The development of –

(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;

where such development occurs –

(a) within a watercourse;

(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

b. Free State

i. Outside urban areas:

(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;

(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;

(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;

(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas.

Activity 18b(i)(bb)(gg)(hh):

The widening of a road by more than 4 meters, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometer-

b. Free State

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i. Outside urban areas:

(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;

(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas

(hh) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100m from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.

Activity 23(ii)(a)(c)b.(i)(bb)(gg):

The expansion of –

(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;

where such expansion occurs –

(a) within a watercourse;

(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;

b. Free State

i. Outside urban areas:

(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;

(gg) Areas within 10 kilometers from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometers from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas," as described in the Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 10 July 2023.

Site coordinates:

Preferred alternative:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Starting point	27°46'15.67"S	27°18'30.25"E
Middle point	27°46'40.68"S	27°18'49.83"E
End point	27°47'0.04" S	27°18'34.56"E



Alternative Powerline Route:

	Latitude (S)	Longitude (E)
Starting point	27°46'15.67"S	27°18'30.25"E
Middle point	27°45'54.15"S	27°19'33.50"E
End point	27°44'49.43"S	27°20'21.43"E

Activity description

Bonsmara Solar PV (RF) (Pty) Ltd is proposing to develop one (1) new 33/132kV on-site substation and switching substation as well as one (1) new associated 132kV overhead power line for the proposed Bonsmara Solar PV Facility (SEF) (part of a separate EIA process / application: DFFE Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2228) approximately 12km south-east of Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality and the Fezile Dabi District, in the Free State Province).

The overall objective of the proposed development is to generate electricity by means of renewable energy technologies capturing solar energy to feed into the national grid. The grid connection and 33/132kV on-site substation and/or switching substation (this application) (DESTEA) Reference Number: To be allocated) requires a separate Environmental Authorisation (EA), in order to allow the EA as well as the proposed infrastructure to be handed over to Eskom.

The grid connection infrastructure which is part of this application is being proposed to feed the electricity generated by the Bonsmara SEF to the national grid. The proposed grid connection infrastructure will be handed over to Eskom once constructed (Eskom grid connection works).

The substations will include an Eskom portion (switching station) and an Independent Power Producer (IPP) portion (facility substation), hence the facility substations have been included in the respective SEF EIAs as well as in the associated grid connection infrastructure BA to allow handover to Eskom. The current applicant will remain in control of the low voltage components (more specifically the 33kV yard) of the facility substation, while the high voltage components (i.e. 132kV components) of the facility substation will likely be ceded to Eskom shortly after the completion of construction.

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The proposed grid connection infrastructure to serve the Bonsmara SEF (part of separate application) will include the following components:

- One (1) new 33/132kV on-site facility substation and switching substation, occupying an area of up to approximately 1 ha and 0.3 ha respectively. The proposed substation will be a step-up substation and will include an Eskom portion and an IPP portion; and One (1) new 132kV overhead power line connecting the on-site substation to the switching substation, thereby feeding the electricity into the national grid. Power line towers being considered for this development include self-supporting suspension monopole or lattice structures for relatively straight sections of the line and angle strain towers where the route alignment bends to a significant degree. Maximum tower height is expected to be approximately 30m and the power line towers will be located 200-400m m apart. The servitude width of the proposed power line towers will be 31m (i.e. 15.5m on either side).

The granting of this EA is subject to the conditions set out below.

Conditions of the Environmental Authorisation

Scope of Authorisation

- 1.1 Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this document. These conditions form part of the EA and are binding on the holder of the EA.
- 1.2 The holder of the EA shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his or her behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, sub-contractor, employee or person rendering a service to the holder of the EA.
- 1.3 The authorised activity may only be carried out on Portion 0 of Farm Scheveningen No. 636, Portion 1 of Farm Scheveningen No. 636, and Portion 0 of Farm Oslaagte No. 2564 mentioned in the Final Basic Assessment Report, Moqhaka Local Municipality, Free State Province, as indicated above at the exact site co-ordinates.
- 1.4 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 affected.

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- 1.5 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 which may result in the holder of the EA to apply for further Authorisation in terms of NEMA (Act 107 of 1998) and the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.
- 1.6 The holder of the EA must apply for an amendment of the EA with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
- 1.7 Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this EA constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
- 1.8 This EA is valid for a period of 10 (ten) years from the date of issue. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the EA lapses and a new application for an EA must be made.
- 1.9 This EA 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 this particular activity.

Appeal of Authorisation

- 1.10 The holder of the EA must notify every registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this EA, of its decision to authorise the activity.
- 1.11 The notification referred must –
 - 1.11.1 specify the date on which the EA was issued;
 - 1.11.2 inform the registered interested and affected parties of the appeal procedure provided for in National Appeal Regulations published in Government Gazette No. 38559 of 12 March 2015;
 - 1.11.3 advise the registered interested and affected parties that a copy of the Authorisation will be furnished on request; and

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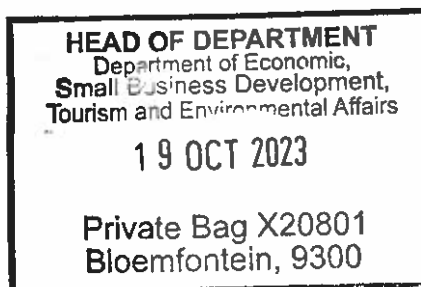
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1.11.4 give the reasons for the decision.

1.12 A person affected by the decision who wishes to appeal against the decision must lodge an appeal with the MEC of the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs within 20 calendar days after being notified of the decision.

The appeal must be directed to:

Attention: Mr. E. Ntjabane
MEC (DESTEA)
Private Bag X20801
Bloemfontein
9300
Tel: (051) 400 4810
E-mail: modisepm@destea.gov.za



- An appeal not submitted to the above mentioned address will not be regarded as valid.
- The applicant shall not commence with the proposed activity once an appeal has been lodged with the office of the MEC.

Management of the activity

1.13 The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of application for an EA is hereby approved.

1.14 The provisions of the EMPr included in the Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) are an extension to the conditions of Authorisation, and non-compliance with the conditions of the EMPr would accordingly constitute non-compliance with the conditions of this EA.

1.15 Must there be a change of ownership and/or project developer, the Department must be notified within 30 (thirty) days prior to the change itself. Conditions imposed in this EA must be made known to the new owner and/or developer.

- 1.16 The recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the Final Basic Assessment Report dated 10 July 2023 must be adhered to and incorporated as part of the EMPr where applicable.
- 1.17 Any updates or amendments to the EMPr must be submitted to the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and must be decided upon within a period of 30 days of the submission.

Monitoring

- 1.18 The applicant must appoint a suitably experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction and operation phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation / rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this EA are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.
- 1.19 The ECO shall be appointed before commencement of any construction activity.
- 1.20 The ECO shall keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 1.21 The ECO shall remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementations due to construction damage are completed and the site is ready for operation.
- 1.22 The ECO shall keep the records relating to monitoring and auditing on site and make them available for inspection to any relevant and Competent Authority in respect of this development.
- 1.23 Construction and operation of the development may be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions of this particular EA as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from the conditions of this EA.

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Recording and reporting to the Department

1.24 The holder of the Authorisation must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within thirty (30) days upon completion of the construction and rehabilitation activities. The environmental audit report must –

1.24.1 Be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the 2014 EIA Regulations 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 EA conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.

1.24.2 Be kept on site and be made available for inspection by any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Commencement of the activity

1.25 The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days after the EA has been issued by the Department to allow the appeal process to proceed accordingly.

1.26 Must you be notified by the MEC of a suspension of the EA pending appeal procedures, you shall not commence with the activity unless authorised by the MEC in writing.

Notification to authorities

1.27 Fourteen (14) days prior written notice must be given to the Department that the activities will commence. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which the construction of the activities will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

1.28 Fourteen (14) days prior written notice must be given to the Department that the activities will commence with the operation.



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Site closure and decommissioning

- 1.29 Must the activities 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.
- 1.30 Before decommissioning of the development becomes evident a rehabilitation plan must be compiled and must be approved by this Department.

Specific conditions

- 1.31 An integrated waste management approach that is based on waste minimisation must be implemented 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 No. 59 of 2008) as amended.
- 1.32 An Emergency Preparedness Plan must be compiled and approved by the Resident Engineer, Safety Office and ECO before construction commences.
- 1.33 The applicant must ensure that general solid waste generated during the construction and operational phase is disposed of at the licensed waste disposal facility.
- 1.34 Before the commencement of construction, the ECO must indicate which storm water measures must be applied during the construction.
- 1.35 A storm water management plan must be compiled and implemented.
- 1.36 Construction activities be limited to normal working hours, 08:00 am – 17:00 pm to avoid creating a nuisance.
- 1.37 All contractors and staff must be trained or informed of the requirements of the EMPr and the need to conduct activities in an environmentally friendly manner.
- 1.38 No construction equipment or tools may be washed or cleaned close to or in the surrounding water bodies and streams.

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- 1.39 Warning signs must be erected indicating the presence of construction vehicles along the road.
- 1.40 Disturbed areas within and immediately surrounding these portions of the proposed pipeline route, must be adequately rehabilitated concurrently with the construction processes.
- 1.41 The applicant must ensure that a pre-construction walk-through of the approved development footprint is conducted by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.
- 1.42 A Protected Plant Species Relocation Management Plan must be compiled by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist.
- 1.43 A Provincial Flora Permit must be obtained from the Free State Department: Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEА), prior to the commencement of any construction activities and the subsequent potential removal/destruction of any identified provincially protected species individuals.
- 1.44 The applicant must ensure that the mixing of cement is done at specifically designated areas to contain surface run-off and must be halted when heavy rain is imminent.
- 1.45 All waste materials, infrastructure, equipment, plant and other items used during the construction must be removed from the site.
- 1.46 The applicant must clearly demarcate the construction footprint and restrict all construction activities to within the proposed infrastructure area.
- 1.47 Indiscriminate habitat destruction must be avoided and the construction footprint, including service and support areas must be kept to a minimum.
- 1.48 The applicant must adhere to conditions stipulated on a letter dated 12 June 2023 from the South African Civil Aviation Authority.

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- 1.49 The applicant must adhere to the conditions stipulated on a letter dated 15 June 2023 from the Eskom.
- 1.50 The applicant must adhere to the conditions stipulated on a letter dated 21 June 2023 from the South African Heritage Resources Agency.
- 1.51 The applicant must adhere to the conditions stipulated on a letter dated 19 May 2023 from the Department of Water and Sanitation.
- 1.52 No burial of any foreign material must be allowed on site.
- 1.53 No materials removed from development area must be allowed to be dumped in nearby livestock farming areas.
- 1.54 Vegetation clearance must be restricted to areas where infrastructure is constructed.
- 1.55 The contractor must ensure the reduction and control construction dust using approved dust suppression techniques as and when required.
- 1.56 The applicant must ensure that no trapping, killing, or poisoning of any wildlife is allowed.
- 1.57 No boundary fence must be opened without the landowners' permission.
- 1.58 All waste must be appropriately separated, contained, and disposed of from the site to a nearby licensed Waste Disposal Facility.
- 1.59 The applicant must apply for storage of solid waste with the relevant competent authority prior to commencement of the proposed activity.
- 1.60 Prior arrangements must be made with the landowners to ensure that livestock and game animals are moved to areas where they cannot be injured by vehicles traversing the area.

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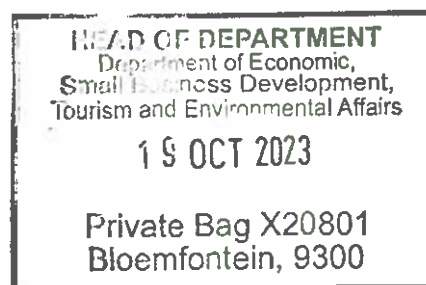
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- 1.61 All chemicals used must be contained within the bunded storage area and shall be protected from rain and wind.
- 1.62 Chemical toilets must be cleaned and serviced regularly to prevent contamination.
- 1.63 All waste generated during operational process must be placed in the waste collection bunded area and disposed of as prescribed in the waste management plan.
- 1.64 The applicant must ensure the availability and service of firefighting equipment on the premises, as well as training of personnel.
- 1.65 No vehicles or equipment must be serviced on site.
- 1.66 The contractor must provide employees with suitable equipment to protect them from hazards being presented and that will allow them to work without risk to the health in a hazardous environment, e.g., hard hats, gloves, boots, etc.
- 1.67 Safety signs complying with SABS and SANS standards must be placed on- site in a manner clearly visible to the public.
- 1.68 Fire extinguishers must be made available at the construction site, and the labourers must be informed of their location and shown how to use them.
- 1.69 Access roads must be maintained and kept in good state of repair in order to prevent dust and loss of soil.
- 1.70 A no development buffer of 50m must be implemented around sites KS3 and KS4.
- 1.71 A no development buffer of 100m must be implemented around sites KS6, KS7 and KS8.
- 1.72 The applicant must prevent soil and groundwater contamination by ensuring that strict standards are followed and waste management practices are adhered to.

- 1.73 All recommendations of the specialist studies conducted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed development must be implemented.
- 1.74 A Chance Find Procedure must be developed and implemented in the event that archaeological or palaeontological resources are found.
- 1.75 If any evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, paleontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources is found during construction, South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA) and archaeologist and / palaeontologist, must be informed immediately depending on the nature of the findings.

General

- 1.76 A copy of the EA must be kept at the property where the activities will be carried on. The EA 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 EA who works or undertakes work at the property.
- 1.77 Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
- 1.78 The applicant is responsible for compliance with the provisions for Duty-of-Care and remediation of damage contained in Section 28 and Emergency Incidents contained in Section 30 of the National Environmental Management Act, (Act no 107 of 1998).
- 1.79 The holder of the EA must notify the Department, in writing within 48 (forty-eight) hours, if any condition of this EA cannot be or is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.



1.80 Non-compliance with a condition of the EA may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.

1.81 The Department shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the applicant or his successor.

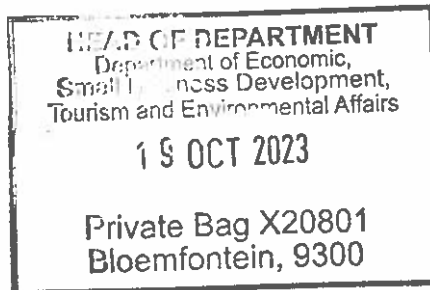
Approved:



Dr. M. Nokwequ

HOD: Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA)

Date: 19/10/23



Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Background

The applicant, Bonsmara Solar PV (RF) (Pty) Ltd, applied for an Authorisation to commence with activities 11(i), 12(ii)(a)(c), 19, 24(ii), 27, 28(ii), 48(i)(a)(c), 56(ii) of Listing Notice 1 (GNR 327) and activities 4b(i)(bb)(gg), 12b(iv), 14(ii)(a)(c)(b)(i)(bb)(ff)(hh), 18b(i)(bb)(gg)(hh), 23(ii)(a)(c)b.(i)(bb)(gg) of Listing Notice 3 (GNR 324) of the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended described in the Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 10 July 2023. The proposed development of Bonsmara on-site switching/collector substation and associated 132kV powerline near Kroonstad, Moqhaka Local Municipality, Free State Province.

The applicant appointed **SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd** to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment process for the activities as required by Regulation 21 of the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.

2. 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 12 May 2023.
- b) The information contained in the Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 10 July 2023 completed by **SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd**.
- c) Comments received from the interested and affected parties as included in the Final BAR dated 10 July 2023.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the Final Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated 10 July 2023 and the EMPr.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the Final BAR dated 10 July 2023.
- f) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines and Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).
- g) The findings of the site inspection were undertaken by Mr. Tlotliso Hanong from the Department on 17 August 2023.

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3. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below:

- a) Details provided of the qualifications of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) indicated the EAP is competent to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment procedures.
- b) The proposed development has the potential to stimulate the demand for other industries, among others construction services, engineering service, transport services, steel structures, cement and other aggregates, and electrical equipment. At the local level, increase in demand for accommodation, personal services, perishable and non-perishable goods is expected, which will stimulate the local economies of the towns and settlements, where labour will be procured from or where migrant workers will be temporarily located.
- c) The Final BAR dated 10 July 2023 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 Final BAR dated 10 July 2023 have been adequately indicated.
- e) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended for public involvement.
- f) Recommendations made by the EAP in the Final BAR, feasible and reasonable alternative options including the no-go were investigated as part of the assessment process.

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4. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings –

- (a) The need for the development has been identified.
- (b) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the Final BAR dated 10 July 2023 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- (c) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- (d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- (e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction, operation and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the Final BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts throughout the life span of the project.
- (f) Adequate process in line with law and legislation for public participation process was undertaken and the EAP has met the minimum requirements as prescribed in the 2014 EIA Regulations as amended.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the Environmental Authorisation, the proposed activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potential detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the proposed activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels, therefore the application is accordingly granted.

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