



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA ·0001· Environment House ·473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 12/12/20/2512/1

Enquiries: Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 E-mail: HAlberts@environment.gov.za

Mr Eugene Marais
South Africa Mainstream Douglas Solar (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 45063
CLAREMONT
7735

Telephone Number: (021) 657 4052
Email Address: eugene.marais@mainstreamrp.com

PER EMAIL

Dear Mr Marais

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: THE 100MW SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY NEAR DOUGLAS, SIYANCUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SIYANDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 07 May 2015, the amendments to the EA issued by this Department on 25 May 2015, 20 April 2018, 21 February 2021, 01 June 2021 and 28 August 2021, your application for amendment of the EA received on 16 September 2021 and the acknowledgement letter dated 21 September 2021, refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5, Regulation 27(2)(a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 07 May 2015 as amended by issuing a new EA.

The attached EA will replace the EA dated 07 May 2015 as amended. All further amendments must be lodged on the attached EA.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, of the Department's decision as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 2000 (Act No. 3 of 2000), you are entitled to the right to fair, lawful and reasonable administrative action; and to written reasons for administrative action that affects you negatively. Further your attention is drawn to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013) which stipulate that the Department should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Department accountable should the Department abuse or compromise your personal information in any way.

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Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) National Appeal Regulations published under Government Notice R993 in Government Gazette No. 38303 dated 08 December 2014 (National Appeal Regulations, 2014), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. Kindly include a copy of this document (National Appeal Regulations, 2014) with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties in this matter.

Should any person wish to lodge an appeal against this decision, he/she must submit the appeal to the appeal administrator, and a copy of the appeal to the applicant, any registered interested and affected party, and any organ of state with interest in the matter within 20 days from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered interested and affected parties by the applicant; or the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the applicant by the Department, whichever is applicable.

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

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appeals@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
Arcadia,
Pretoria,
0083; or

By post: Private Bag X447,
Pretoria,
0001;

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

To obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals, please visit the Department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Mr Vusi Skosana
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 20 October 2021

cc:	Dineo Moleko	NC: DENC	Email: dmoleko@ncpp.gov.za
	Martin Fills	Siyancuma Local Municipality	Email: mm@siyancuma.gov.za
	Arlene Singh	Nala Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Email: arlene@veersgroup.com



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended

The 100MW Solar Energy Facility near Douglas, Siyancuma Local Municipality,
Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province

Siyanda District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>12/12/20/2512/1</i>
Last amended:	<i>Splitting and Re-Issue First Issue: 07 May 2015</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>South Africa Mainstream Douglas Solar (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Portion 1 of Farm Roode Kop No. 5, Douglas, Siyanda District Municipality Northern Cape Province</i>

This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this Environmental Authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

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

Activities authorised

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

SOUTH AFRICA MAINSTREAM DOUGLAS SOLAR (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the holder of the authorisation)

with the following contact details –

Mr Eugene Marais

PO Box 45063

CLAREMONT

7735

Telephone Number: (021) 657 4052

Cell Phone Number: (073) 871 5781

Email Address: Eugene.Marais@mainstreamrp.com

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

<p><u>GN R. 544: Activity 10:</u></p> <p><i>"The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity:</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 kilovolts but less than 275 kilovolts."</i></p>	<p>It is planned to use the existing Ovaal Pump Substation for the transmission and distribution of electricity, for which connections to the farm must be installed.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544: Activity 11:</u></p> <p><i>"The construction of:</i></p> <p><i>(x) infrastructure or structures covering 50 square metres or more</i></p> <p><i>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>The final layout might result in solar panels or other infrastructure encroaching within 32 metres of a watercourse.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544: Activity 18:</u></p> <p><i>"The infilling or depositing of any material or more than 5 cubic metres into or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from:</i></p> <p><i>(i) a watercourse."</i></p>	<p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into or from a watercourse might occur on the proposed site.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 544: Activity 22:</u></p> <p><i>"The construction of a road, outside urban areas,</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres."</i></p>	<p>The turning circles for the trucks delivering the solar park material may require turning circles that are wider than 8 metres.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 545: Activity 1:</u></p> <p><i>"The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more."</i></p>	<p>A facility for generating an electricity output of approximately 100MW from the solar energy will be constructed.</p>

<p><u>GN R. 545: Activity 8:</u> <i>"The construction of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kV or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex."</i></p>	<p>Electrical transmission infrastructure (which might have a capacity of 275kV or more) must be constructed to connect the proposed development to the substation.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 545: Activity 15:</u> <i>"Physical alteration of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land for industrial use where the total area to be transformed is 20 hectares or more."</i></p>	<p>The total area covered by the proposed activity is approximately 200ha, parts of which will be subject to physical alteration for commercial/industrial use.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546: Activity 2:</u> <i>"The construction of reservoirs for bulk water supply with a capacity of more than 250 m³.</i> <i>(a) In Northern Cape</i> <i>(iii) Outside urban areas,</i> <i>(ff) Areas within 10 kilometres (km) from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 km from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve."</i></p>	<p>The construction of a reservoir for bulk water supply with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres might occur.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546: Activity 4:</u> <i>The construction of a road wider than 4 m with a reserve less than 13.5 m</i> <i>(a) In Free State, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape provinces:</i> <i>ii. Outside urban areas</i></p>	<p>New roads with width greater than 4 metres will be constructed to provide access to the facility and between solar panels.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 546: Activity 14:</u> <i>"The clearance of an area of 5 hectares or more of vegetation where 75% or more of the vegetative cover constitutes Indigenous vegetation.</i> <i>(a) In Northern Cape,</i> <i>i. All areas outside urban areas."</i></p>	<p>The development footprint of approximately 200ha with laydown areas will require clearance of vegetative cover most of which is current grazing crops. The construction of transmission infrastructure (linear development) might however result in the clearing of vegetation cover of which 75% might constitute indigenous vegetation.</p>

<p>GN R. 546: Activity 16: <i>"The construction of: (iii) buildings with a footprint exceeding 10 m² in size; or (iv) infrastructure covering 10 m² or more where such construction occurs within a watercourse or within 32 m of a watercourse." (a) Northern Cape, ii. Outside urban areas</i></p>	<p>The final layout might result in solar panels or other infrastructure encroaching within 32 metres of a watercourse.</p>
<p>GN R. 546: Activity 19: <i>"The widening of a road by more than 4 meters, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 km. (a) (ii) outside urban areas (gg) Areas within 10 km from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 km from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; (ii) Areas on the watercourse side of the development setback line or within 100 m from the edge of a watercourse where no such setback line has been determined."</i></p>	<p>Transportation of PV material assemblies and access to the proposed location might require the widening of roads by more than 4 meters as well as the extension of some roads by more than 1 kilometre.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAr) dated November 2014 and the amendment application form received in September 2021 at:

Site Coordinates:

Preferred site (triangular shape)	Latitude	Longitude
North corner	29° 10' 09.03"S	23° 41' 18.31"E
East Corner	29° 10' 49.95"S	23° 41' 38.04"E
West Corner	29° 10' 48.30" S	23° 41' 35.22"E
Preferred onsite Substation	29° 10' 13.31"S	23° 41' 18.57"E

- for the 100MW Douglas Solar PV Energy Facility and its associated infrastructure located on Parcel 1/5 of the Farm Roode Kop No. 5, located 10 kilometres south-west of Douglas within the Silyancuma Local Municipality and the Siyanda District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

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The infrastructure associated with this facility includes:

- Photovoltaic (PV) Modules (monocrystalline, polycrystalline, or thin film solar modules);
- Mounting systems adapted to PV (fixed or single axis horizontal trackers) for PV arrays;
- Internal cabling and string boxes;
- Medium voltage stations, hosting DC/AC inverters and LV/MV power transformers;
- Medium voltage receiving stations;
- On-site buildings (including operation control centre, offices, ablution facilities, security enclosures and welfare facilities);
- Workshop/warehouses, laydown area, site offices and O&M buildings all located within a 200m x 200m area;
- The IPP portion of the onsite high voltage substation with high voltage power transformers, stepping up the voltage to the voltage of the Eskom grid (132kV) and a 132kV busbar with metering and protection devices, and a control building (also called switching station) to be located within the PV plant development area;
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a footprint of 2ha in extent within the existing authorised extent of the laydown area and authorised on-site substation footprint. The BESS technology will consist of Lithium Ion Batteries with an export capacity of approximately 500KWh and a total storage capacity of 100MW;
- The BESS will be located on a concrete platform and surrounded by 2.5m high berm walls and gravel;
- Electrical system, UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) devices;
- Possible expansion of the existing Ovaal Substation to accommodate for a new bay for a 132kV connection;
- Lighting system;
- Grounding system;
- Access road and internal roads;
- Fencing of the site, alarm and video surveillance system;
- Water access point, (and possibly, water extraction, on-site borehole(s) point) water supply pipelines, and water treatment facilities; and
- Sewage system.

Technical details for the facility:

Component	Description/ Dimensions
Location of the site	10 kilometres south-west of Douglas and approximately 105 kilometres south-west of Kimberley, in the Northern Cape Province
PV Panel area	Max 250ha
Site access	Access to the site will be located off the regional R357, along the R359 to Hopetown (R387 Strydenburg) as the site entrance would be off the busier main road and located closer to the proposed onsite substation and laydown area. Alternatively, the site will be from the regional route R357, connecting Nieuwoudtville and Kimberley via Loeriesfontein and Prieska, which runs parallel to the site. Dual access is envisaged for both security and for emergency access purposes. The current access road from the R357 will be adapted to form the main access point to the site. An internal site road network will be developed to provide access to the solar field and other infrastructure (e.g. substation and buildings). Access is needed primarily for maintenance, inspections, security and panel cleaning. Existing farm roads will be used where possible.
Export capacity	Max. 100MW
Proposed technology	Photovoltaic panels (PV)
Height of installed panels from ground level	Up to 10 meters
Width and length of internal roads	Main internal road - width: 10m, length: 6.7km Secondary internal roads – width: 5m, length: 7.4km
On-site Substation (100m x 100)	PP Portion: 50m x 50m
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Footprint	2ha
BESS technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lithium- Ion • Approximately 167 containers or battery cells

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 12.2m per container (each pack is 2.4m tall)
Capacity of BESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Export capacity of up to 500MWh• Total storage capacity of 100MW• Storage capacity of up to 5 hours
Access to BESS	As the BESS will be located between the authorised onsite substation and layout down area, access roads to the authorised onsite substation will be used to access the BESS.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. Authorisation is granted for the construction of the 100MW Solar Energy Facility near Douglas, Siyancuma Local Municipality, Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province as per the above geographic coordinates. The facility will connect directly into the Ovaal Pump Substation.
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 on or before 07 May 2025. 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. The Department is aware that the environment changes constantly, as a result it might be significantly different from the one that existed at the time of the issuing of the original EA on **07 May 2015** as amended, hence the validity of the EA cannot exceed a maximum period of 10 years. The EA is valid till **07 May 2025**. Failure to commence with construction activities within the maximum 10-year period, your EA will be deemed to have lapsed and a new application for EA will have to be lodged.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.
9. 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

10. 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.
11. The notification referred to must –
 - 11.1 specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 11.2 inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010;
 - 11.3 advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 11.4 give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.
12. The holder of the authorisation must publish a notice –
 - 12.1 informing interested and affected parties of the decision;
 - 12.2 informing interested and affected parties where the decision can be accessed; and
 - 12.3 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

13. The updated Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the application for EA, as amended (August 2021) for the SEF and Generic EMPr for the on-site substation is hereby approved. These EMPr's must be implemented and adhered to.
14. The EMPr and Generic EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
15. The EMPr and Generic EMPr is amendable and must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
16. Changes to the EMPr and Generic EMPr which are environmentally defensible, shall be submitted to this Department for approval before such changes could be effected.
17. The Department reserves the right to amend the EMPrs should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIA dated November 2014 as amended in July 2021 and the Generic EMPr dated July 2021 be discovered.
18. The provisions of the approved EMPr and Generic EMPr including recommendations and mitigation measures in the EIA dated November 2014 and subsequent amendments and specialist studies shall be an extension of the conditions of this EA and therefore noncompliance with them would constitute noncompliance with the EA.
19. The Alternative 1 Layout Plan (Chapter 3, Figure 3.1) submitted as part of the EIA dated November 2014 is approved and the location of the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and Eskom portion of the substation submitted as part of the Part 1 Amendment dated August 2021 is authorised.

Environmental Control Officer (ECO) and duties

20. The holder of this authorisation must appoint an independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) with experience or expertise in the field for the construction phase of the development. The ECO will have the responsibility to ensure that the conditions referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and Generic EMPr.
21. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity.
22. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director: Compliance Monitoring of this Department.
23. The ECO must meet with the contractors to discuss the conditions of the EA and the contents of the EMPr and Generic EMPr prior to any site clearing occurring.

24. 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.
25. The ECO must:
 - 25.1 Keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 25.2 Keep and maintain a detailed incident (including spillage of bitumen, fuels, chemicals, or any other material) and complaint register on site indicating how these issues were addressed, what rehabilitation measures were taken and what preventative measures were implemented to avoid re-occurrence of incidents/complaints.
 - 25.3 Keep and maintain a daily site diary.
 - 25.4 Keep copies of all reports submitted to the Department.
 - 25.5 Keep and maintain a schedule of current site activities including the monitoring of such activities.
 - 25.6 Obtain and keep record of all documentation, permits, licences and authorisations such as waste disposal certificates, hazardous waste landfill site licences etc. required by this facility.
 - 25.7 Complete a monthly monitoring report.

Recording and reporting to the Department

26. The holder of this authorisation must keep all records relating to monitoring and auditing on site and make it available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.
27. 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 this Department.

Environmental audit report

28. 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.
29. The environmental audit report must:
 - 29.1 Be compiled by an independent environmental auditor;
 - 29.2 Indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit;
 - 29.3 Evaluate compliance with the requirements of the approved EMPr and Generic EMPr and this environmental authorisation;

- 29.4 Include measures to be implemented to attend to any non-compliances or degradation noted;
- 29.5 Include copies of any approvals granted by other authorities relevant to the development for the reporting period;
- 29.6 Highlight any outstanding environmental issues that must be addressed, along with recommendations for ensuring these issues are appropriately addressed;
- 29.7 Include a copy of this authorisation and the approved EMPr and Generic EMPr;
- 29.8 Include all documentation such as waste disposal certificates, hazardous waste landfill site licences etc. pertaining to this authorisation; and
- 29.9 Include evidence of adherence to the conditions of this authorisation and the EMPr and Generic EMPr where relevant such as training records and attendance records.

Commencement of the activity

- 30. The authorised activity shall not commence within twenty (20) days of the date of signature of the authorisation.
- 31. 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 until such time that the appeal has been finalised.
- 32. The holder of this authorisation must obtain a Water Use Licence from the Department of Water Affairs (DWA) prior to the commencement of the project should the holder impact on any wetland or water resource. A copy of the license must be kept by the ECO.

Notification to authorities

- 33. 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. This notification period may coincide with the Notice of Intent to Appeal period, within which construction may not commence.

Operation of the activity

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

35. The holder of this authorisation must compile an operational EMPr for the operational phase of the facility and Generic EMPr for the operational phase of the IPP portion of the onsite substation or alternatively, if the holder has an existing operational environmental management system, it must be amended to include the operation of the authorised activity.
36. The EMPr and Generic EMPr must form part of the contract with the EPC Contractor appointed to construct the proposed facility, and must be used to ensure compliance with environmental specifications and management measures.

Site closure and decommissioning

37. 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

38. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities. Construction activities must therefore be restricted to demarcated areas to restrict the impact on sensitive environmental features.
39. Areas outside of the footprint, including sensitive areas and buffer areas, must be clearly demarcated (using fencing and appropriate signage) before construction commences and must be regarded as "no-go" areas. Contractors and construction workers must be clearly informed of the no-go areas.
40. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint. Mitigation measures must be implemented to reduce the risk of erosion and the invasion of alien species.
41. Before the clearing of the site, the appropriate permits must be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for the removal of plants listed in the National Forest Act and from the relevant provincial department for the destruction of species protected in terms of the specific provincial legislation. Copies of the permits must be kept by the ECO.
42. All areas of disturbed soil must be reclaimed using only indigenous grass and shrubs. Reclamation activities shall be undertaken according to the rehabilitation plan to be included in the final EMPr and Generic EMPr.
43. Wetlands, rivers and river riparian areas must be treated as "no-go" areas and appropriately demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be

- allowed into these areas without the express permission of and supervision by the ECO, except for rehabilitation work in these areas.
44. No discharge of effluents or polluted water must be allowed into any rivers or wetland areas.
 45. No spoil material, including stripped topsoil, must be temporarily stockpiled within 30 m of freshwater ecosystems identified to be of low or moderate conservation importance and 50 m of freshwater ecosystems identified to be of high conservation importance.
 46. Underground cables and internal access roads must be aligned as much as possible along existing infrastructure to limit damage to vegetation and watercourses.
 47. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes; only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
 48. No activities will be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use license being in place from the Department of Water Affairs.
 49. Cleared alien vegetation must not be dumped on adjacent intact vegetation during clearing but must be temporarily stored in a demarcated area.
 50. Disturbed areas must be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction with locally indigenous plants to enhance the conservation of existing natural vegetation on site.
 51. Workers must be made aware of the importance of not polluting rivers or wetlands and of not undertaking activities that could result in such pollution, and this awareness must be promoted throughout the construction phase.
 52. Signs must be placed along construction roads to identify speed limits, travel restrictions, and other standard traffic control information. To minimize impacts on local commuters, consideration should be given to limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time.
 53. Internal access roads must be located to minimize stream crossings. All structures crossing streams must be located and constructed so that they do not decrease channel stability or increase water velocity.
 54. Road borders should be regularly maintained to ensure that vegetation remains short and that they therefore serve as an effective firebreak.
 55. Roads must be designed so that changes to surface water runoff are avoided and erosion is not initiated.
 56. Signage must be erected at appropriate points warning of turning traffic and the construction site.
 57. Construction vehicles carrying materials to the site should avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
 58. Should abnormal loads have to be transported by road to the site, a permit must be obtained from the relevant Provincial Government.

59. The holder of this authorisation must reduce visual impacts during construction by minimising areas of surface disturbance, controlling erosion, using dust suppression techniques and restoring exposed soil as closely as possible to their original contour and vegetation.
60. The holder of this authorisation must train safety representatives, managers and workers in workplace safety. The construction process must be compliant with all safety and health measures as prescribed by the relevant act.
61. Liaison with land owners/farm managers must be done prior to construction in order to provide sufficient time for them to plan agricultural activities.
62. No unsupervised open fires for cooking or heating must be allowed on site.
63. Areas around fuel tanks must be bunded or contained in an appropriate manner as per the requirements of SABS 089:1999 Part 1.
64. Leakage of fuel must be avoided at all times and if spillage occurs, it must be remedied immediately.
65. Hazardous waste such as bitumen, oils, oily rags, paint tins etc. must be disposed of at an approved waste landfill site licensed to accept such waste.
66. No dumping or temporary storage of any materials may take place outside designated and demarcated laydown areas, and these must all be located within areas of low environmental sensitivity.
67. Hazardous substances must not be stored where there could be accidental leakage into surface or subterranean water.
68. Hazardous and flammable substances must be stored and used in compliance to the applicable regulations and safety instructions. Furthermore, no chemicals must be stored nor may any vehicle maintenance occur within 350m of the temporal zone of wetlands, a drainage line with or without an extensive floodplain or hillside wetlands.
69. Temporary bunds must be constructed around chemical storage to contain possible spills.
70. Spill kits must be made available on-site for the clean-up of spills.
71. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling and re-use options where appropriate. Where solid waste is disposed of, such disposal shall only occur at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20(b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act 59 of 2008).
72. The holder of this authorisation must provide sanitation facilities within the construction area and along the road so that workers do not pollute the surrounding environment. These facilities must be removed from the site when the construction phase is completed as well as associated waste to be disposed of at a registered waste disposal site.

73. The holder of this authorisation must take note that no temporary site camps will be allowed outside the footprint of the development area as the establishment of such structures might trigger a listed activity as defined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations applicable at the time.
74. Foundations and trenches must be backfilled with originally excavated materials as much as possible. Excess excavation materials must be disposed of only in approved areas or, if suitable, stockpiled for use in reclamation activities.
75. Borrow materials must be obtained only from authorized and permitted sites. Permits must be kept on site by the ECO.
76. Dust abatement techniques must be used before and during surface clearing, excavation, or blasting activities.
77. Appropriate dust suppression techniques must be implemented on all exposed surfaces during periods of high wind. Such measures may include wet suppression, chemical stabilisation, the use of a wind fence, covering surfaces with straw chippings and re-vegetation of open areas.
78. A pre-construction survey of the final development footprint must be conducted to ascertain the identity and exact number of individuals of protected species affected by the proposed development. Prior to the commencement of construction, a rescue and rehabilitation operation for these species which could survive translocation must be conducted.
79. No construction activities can commence without having obtained the necessary permits for threatened or protected species (ToPS) listed and provincially protected species within the study area.
80. Any vegetation clearing that needs to take place as part of maintenance activities, should be done in an environmentally friendly manner, including avoiding the use of herbicides and using manual clearing methods wherever possible.
81. All construction vehicles must remain on properly demarcated roads. No construction vehicles should be allowed to drive over the vegetation except where no cleared roads are available. In such cases a single track should be used and multiple paths should not be formed. Where temporary access roads are created, they should be rehabilitated as outlined in the rehabilitation plan after completion of construction.
82. Regular monitoring for erosion must take place to ensure that no erosion problems are occurring at the site as a result of the roads and other infrastructure. All erosion problems observed should be rectified as soon as possible as outlined in the erosion management plan within the EMPr and Generic EMPr.
83. Excavations must be inspected regularly in order to rescue trapped animals.
84. An appropriately designed and effective stormwater management system must be implemented.
85. Kerbs and storm water channels must be designed in such a way that they can allow small animals and reptiles to move freely.

86. All declared aliens must be identified and managed in accordance with the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983). There should be an alien species monitoring and eradication program to prevent encroachment of these problem plants for the duration of the operation. This should form part of the EMPr and Generic EMPr and should aim to address alien plant problems within the whole site, not just the development footprint. A rehabilitation strategy, with follow-up for at least two years after construction were completed, must also form part of the EMPr and Generic EMPr.
87. Top soil and subsoil must be stockpiled separately and replaced according to the correct profile i.e. topsoil replaced last. Stockpiles should not be situated such that they obstruct natural water pathways and drainage channels.
88. Any fauna directly threatened by the construction activities should be removed to a safe location by a suitably qualified person.
89. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources must be made.
90. The washing of panels during maintenance must be done with biodegradable soaps to avoid soil contamination and poisoning of small animals.
91. Lighting for both the construction period and through the operation of the facility must be of low-pressure sodium type, preferably yellow. All perimeter and security lighting must be attached to motion detectors and should be dark-sky friendly.
92. Electric fencing should not have any strands within 30cm of the ground, which should be sufficient to allow smaller mammals, reptiles and tortoises to pass through (tortoises retreat into their shells when electrocuted and eventually succumb from repeated shocks), but still remain effective as a security barrier.
93. During operation, any electrocution and collision events that occur should be recorded, including the species affected and the date. If repeated collisions occur within the same area, then, further mitigation and avoidance measures may need to be implemented.
94. The recommendations of the EAP in the EIAr dated November 2014 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.

General

95. A copy of this authorisation and the approved EMPr and Generic EMPr must be kept at the property where the activity will be undertaken. The authorisation and approved EMPr and Generic 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.
96. 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: 20 October 2021



Mr Vusi Skosana

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on February 2015.
- b) The information contained in the EIA;
- c) The comments received from the; Department of Energy; Eskom; Local Municipality; Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Birdlife South Africa, SKA, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, SENTECH and interested and affected parties as included in the EIA;
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIA and the EMP;
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Appendix E to Appendix J of the EIA and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Botanical Impact Assessment	Dave McDonald of Bergwind Botanical Surveys & Tours	November 2014
Avifauna	Chris van Rooyen Consulting	November 2014
Fauna	Werner Marais of <i>Animalia zoological & Ecological</i>	December 2014
Visual	Lourens Du Plessis of MetroGIS	December 2014
Heritage	Tim Hart of ACO Associates	November 2014
Socio-economic	Tony Barbour Environmental Consulting and Research	December 2014
Agricultural and soil impact	Johann Lanz	November 2014
Noise	Morne de Jager of Enviro Acoustic Research cc	undated
Bat monitoring	Jenifer Slack of Arcus Consulting Services	December 2014
Aquatic Assessment	Brian Colloty of Scherman Colloty and Associates	December 2014

- f) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.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) Details provided of the qualifications of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP).
- b) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- c) The need for the proposed project stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid in terms of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (RRIPPPP) as required by the Department of Energy.
- d) The EIA identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIA.
- e) The description of the environment that may be affected by the activity and the manner in which the physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects of the environment may be affected by the proposed activities.
- f) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the EIA and the specialist studies has 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 is detailed in the EIA and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts has 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 EIA is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIA 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 authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
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Mr. Vusi Skosana
Director: Strategic co-ordination planning and support

Dear Mr. Vusi Skosana

APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 20 OCTOBER 2021 UNTIL 22 OCTOBER 2021.

This serves to confirm your appointment as Acting Chief Director: integrated environmental authorisations, from 20 October 2021 until 22 October 2021, whilst Mr Sabelo Malaza is on Sick Leave.

You will act in this capacity with the full responsibilities and duties attached to the post, including the activities entrusted to the Acting Chief Director: integrated environmental authorisations by or in terms of the Acts administered by the Department.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1996), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standards, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of the legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Yours Sincerely

Devinagle Bendeman
Deputy Director-General: RCSM (Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring)

Date: 19/10/2021



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
I ACCEPT / DO NOT ACCEPT
appointment as Acting Chief
Director: integrated environmental
authorizations

Signed:

Date: 20 October 2021