



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2136

Enquiries: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Telephone: (012) 399 8815 E-mail: OLetlalo@dff.gov.za

Ms Mercia Grimbeek
Camden I Solar (RF) Pty Ltd
Suite 104, The Albion Springs Office Park
183 Main Road, Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7701

Cellphone Number: 071 752 8033
Email Address: qideon.raath@enertraq.co.za

PER E-MAIL /MAIL

Dear Ms Grimbeek

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE PROPOSED CAMDEN I SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 1 OF WELGELEGEN FARM NO. 322, NEAR ERMELO WITHIN MSUKALIGWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

With reference to the above application, please be advised that the Competent Authority has decided to grant authorisation. The Environmental Authorisation (EA) and reasons for the decision are attached herewith

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision, as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the EIA 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 stipulates that the Competent Authority should conduct itself in a responsible manner when collecting, processing, storing, and sharing an individual or another entity's personal information by holding the Competent Authority accountable should the Competent Authority abuses or compromises your personal information in any way.

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 prescribe 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 Competent Authority, 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: appealsdirector@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 appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully



Ms Milicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment
 Date: 09/03/2023

cc:	Ms Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 011 361 1392	Email: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com
	Sindisiwe Mbuane	Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs IMDARDLEA'i	Tel: 017811 3951	Email: m.bu.ane@nr.g.gov.za
	Hilda Maganya	Msukaligwa Local Municipality	Tel: 017 809 3505	Email: hmaganya@msukaliowa.i3ov.za
	Tebogo Mogakabe	Gert Sibande District Municipality	Tel: 017 801 7140	Email: teboqom@qsibande.gov.za



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

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

Environmental Authorisation

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

Proposed Camden 1 Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of Welqelegen Farm No. 322. near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province

Gert Sibande District Municipality

Application Register Number:	74/72716/3/3/2/236
Applicant:	<i>Camden 1 Solar (RF) Pty Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>Portion 1 of Welqelegen Farm No. 322, near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga 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 -

CAMDEN I SOLAR (RF) PTY LTD

with the following contact details -

Ms Mercia Grimbeek

Suite 104, The Albion Springs Office Park

183 Main Road, Rondebosch

CAPE TOWN

7701

Cell phone Number: 071 752 8033

Email Address: gideon.raath@enertraq.co.za

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 11(i):</u></p> <p><i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>The facility is located outside urban areas. Furthermore, internal distribution electrical infrastructure required to connect the respective electrical components related to the facility, and the onsite substation, including cabling (buried or overhead) will be between 33kV and 132kV. The onsite substation will consist of a high voltage substation yard to allow for up to 132kV feeder bays and transformers.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 12(ii)(a)(c):</u></p> <p><i>“The development of—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more, where such development occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse; or</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads (total physical footprint of approximately 40 000m²) will be required for access to the facility. The physical footprint of internal access roads, substation infrastructure and/or electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the Facility will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site and is estimated at ~ 5.5ha subject to detail design, thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 14:</u></p> <p><i>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</i></p>	<p>The facility will require storage and handling of dangerous goods, including fuel, cement, and chemical storage onsite, that will be greater than 80m³ but not exceeding 500m³. The following estimated maximum capacities of dangerous good will be stored on site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concrete Batching: -145 m³ - Fuel stores (Petrol and/or Diesel): -250m³ - Paint, grease, transformer oils, construction chemicals, lubricants: -100m³.

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<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 19:</u></p> <p><i>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;</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads, substation infrastructure and/or stormwater control infrastructure, as well as electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the facility will collectively require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil exceeding 10m³ from delineated watercourses on site however, these will be within the thresholds relevant to this Listed Activity and therefore within the threshold values and triggering this activity.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 24(ii):</u></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads required by the facility will be without reserve and vary between 8 - 20m wide, to allow for larger component transport</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 28(ii):</u></p> <p><i>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 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;</i></p>	<p>The facility is considered a commercial and/or industrial development and is located on several farm portions outside an urban area, used for agricultural purposes. The total area to be developed for the facility (buildable area) is approximately 280ha (i.e., greater than 1ha within agricultural use land).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 30:</u></p> <p><i>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</i></p>	<p>The facility infrastructure is located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of, Eastern Highveld Grassland, Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands and Chrissiesmeer Panveld. All three ecosystems are confirmed to be listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in Need of Protection (as indicated in GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011). Since these ecosystems are listed as threatened it is assumed that various threatened or protected species may be found within the development area. The restricted activity of “cutting, chopping off, uprooting, damaging or destroying, any specimen” has been</p>

	<p>identified in terms of NEM:BA and is therefore applicable to the vegetation clearance that will be required to construct the development. In light of this, Activity 30 is considered applicable.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 48(i)(a)(c):</u></p> <p><i>The expansion of—</i></p> <p><i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more, or</i></p> <p><i>where such expansion occurs—</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse</i></p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure collectively exceeding 100m² or more beyond existing road or road reserves located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.</p> <p><u>Expansion of - 2 000m² is required for the facility,</u> thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 56(H):</u></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.</i></p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8m. The facility is located within a rural area. Subject to detail design, <u>widening of -14 m in width and lengthening of - 12km will be required</u></p>
	<p><u>for the facility,</u> thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Activity 1:</u></p> <p><i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs —</i></p> <p><i>(a) within an urban area; or</i></p> <p><i>(b) on existing infrastructure</i></p>	<p>The project comprises a Solar Energy Facility of up to 100MW, allowing for up to 100MW export from the facility.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Activity 15</u></p>	<p>The clearance required for the Facility will be approximately 280ha (subject to detailed design) of</p>

<p><i>"The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation"</i></p>	<p>indigenous vegetation. Development activities planned thereby exceeding the activity threshold and this activity is considered applicable.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3 Activity</u> <u>4(f)(i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(gg)</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</i></p> <p><i>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding disturbed areas</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas</i></p> <p><i>(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</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans</i></p> <p><i>(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, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads required by the Facility will be between 5m and 6m wide, and approximately 8km in length. Where required for turning circle/bypass areas, however, access or internal roads may be up to 20m to allow for larger component transport. The exact values will be confirmed following detailed design. Development activities planned thereby exceeding the activity threshold within the following areas:</p> <p>The facility is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and on Portion 1 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or deproclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>The facility is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the abovementioned private nature reserve.</p> <p>In addition, and on the basis of the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, roads required for the Facility will be located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance of, Eastern Highveld Grassland, Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands and Chrissiesmeer Pan veld, all three ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</p> <p>Similarly, roads required for the Facility will be located within, and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance within Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA) and Ecological Support Areas (ESA).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 12(f)(i)(ii)(iii)</u></p> <p><i>“The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p> <p><i>(f) in Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans”</i></p> <p><i>Hi. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning or proclamation in terms of NEMPAA.</i></p>	<p>The clearance required for the facility will be approximately 280ha of indigenous vegetation. Development activities planned thereby exceeding the activity threshold within the following areas: Clearance required will be in excess of 300m² and be partly located within Eastern Highveld Grassland, Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, all three ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). Similarly, vegetation clearance required for the Facility will be located within CBA and ESA, in excess of 300m².</p> <p>Furthermore, the clearance contemplated above will all occur within the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and on Portion 1 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen),</p>

	<p>which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 14(ii)(a)(c)(f)</u> <u>(i)(aa)(bb)(dd)(ff)(hh)</u> <i>The development of—</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a Physical footprint of 10 Square metres or more where such development occurs—</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse</i> <i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse</i> <i>f. Mpumalanga</i> <i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies</i> <i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas</i> <i>(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</i> <i>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bio regional plans</i></p>	<p>The facility will require the development of internal roads (total physical footprint of approximately 4ha). The physical footprint of internal access roads, stormwater control infrastructure, substation and/or electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the facility will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site and is estimated at ~ 5.5ha, thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity.</p> <p>In addition, the development activity contemplated is located in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and on Portion 1 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>The facility is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the above-mentioned private</p>

<p><i>(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 area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;</i></p>	<p>nature reserve. In addition, based on the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity.</p> <p>Furthermore, the development activity contemplated will be located within Eastern Highveld Grassland, Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, all three ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</p> <p>Finally, the development activity contemplated will exceed 10m² within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, located within CBA and ESA.</p>
<p>Activity 15 (d)(ii)</p> <p><i>The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning, on or after 02 August 2010.</i></p> <p><i>d. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>ii. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies.</i></p>	<p>The facility is considered a commercial and/or industrial development and will require the transformation of a footprint of approximately 280ha within several farm portions outside an urban area zoned for agriculture, while being located on Portion 1 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing</p>

	<p>province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>The facility is therefore currently located within the extent of the above-mentioned private nature reserve.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 18(f)(i)(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(gg)</u></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</i></p> <p><i>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>1. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas</i></p> <p><i>(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</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans</i></p> <p><i>(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 area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation</i></p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads whereby more than 4m or in excess of 1km within the Mpumalanga Province and outside urban areas. Subject to detail design <u>widening of- 14m in width and lengthening of * 12km will be required for the facility</u>, thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity.</p> <p>Such widening will occur on Portion 1 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or deproclaimed (partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>The facility is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the above-mentioned private nature reserve).</p> <p>In addition, and on the basis of the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development</p>

	<p>activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity.</p> <p>Furthermore, such widening will occur within Eastern Highveld Grassland, Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, all three ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</p> <p>Finally, such widening will be located within CBA and ESA.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3, Activity 23(ii)(a)(c)(f)(i)</p> <p><u>(aa)(bb)(cc)(ee)(qq)</u></p> <p><i>The expansion of—</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more where such expansion occurs —</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse</i></p> <p><i>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse</i></p> <p><i>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies</i></p> <p><i>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas</i></p> <p><i>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as</i></p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure collectively exceeding 10m² or more beyond existing road or road reserves located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. Expansion of ~ 2 000m² is anticipated, subject to detail design, thereby exceeding the threshold value and triggering this activity. In addition, the facility is in the Mpumalanga Province outside urban areas, and on Portion 1 of Farm No. 322 (Welgelegen), which is a declared Private Nature Reserve (Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940). It should be noted that abovementioned Private Nature Reserve is not being managed as a nature reserve and a separate process is underway to have it withdrawn or de-proclaimed</p>

<p><i>contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans</i></p> <p><i>(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 area of a biosphere reserve, where such areas comprise indigenous vegetation;</i></p>	<p>(partially or wholly) as part of ongoing province-wide reserve verification efforts by the provincial authorities.</p> <p>The facility is therefore currently both located within the extent, and within 5km of the above-mentioned private nature reserve. In addition, and since the DFFE Screening Tool output identifying the study area within the "Protected Areas Expansion Strategy" (Low Priority - Mpumalanga Protected Area Expansion Strategy), the development activity occurs within NPAES focus area thereby triggering this activity. Furthermore, the development activity contemplated will be located within Eastern Highveld Grassland, Eastern Temperate Freshwater Wetlands and Chrissiesmeer Panveld, all three ecosystems of which are listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of Protection (GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011), and subsequently listed in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). Finally, the development activity contemplated will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site, located within CBA and ESA.</p>
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as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAr) dated 01 November 2022:

21 Digit SG Codes

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Co-ordinate Points of the Cadastral Land Parcel

Point	Longitude	Latitude
SEF-1	30° 4'2.75"E	26°38'23.53"S
SEF-2	30° 3'31.93"E	26°38'51.84"S
SEF-3	30° 4'13.02"E	26°40'6.02"S
SEF-4	30° 4'12.40"E	26°40'27.16"S

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SEF-5	30° 4'9.69"E	26°40'33.23"S
SEF-6	30° 4'1.57"E	26°40'44.09"S
SEF-7	30° 3'56.64"E	26°40'53.64"S
SEF-8	30° 3'58.15"E	26°41'7.74"S
SEF-9	30° 4'3.39"E	26°41'20.80"S
SEF-10	30° 5'21.06"E	26°39'15.40"S

Solar Facility and Associated Key Infrastructure Approximate Central Coordinates

Infrastructure	Longitude	Latitude
Solar Field	30° 4'40.47"E	26°39'50.34"S
SEF SS & BESS Alternative 2	30° 4'25.28"E	26°39'36.01"S
Construction Camp 2	30° 4'7.61"E	26°39'30.26"S

Onsite Substation

	Longitude	Latitude
A2-A	30° 4'20.71 "E	26°39'30.94"S
A2-B	30° 4'31.86"E	26°39'35.59"S
A2-C	30° 4'27.94"E	26°39'42.51"S
A2-D	30° 4'16.90"E	26°39'37.67"S

- for the proposed Camden I Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of Welgelegen Farm No. 322, near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality in Gert Sibande District Municipality in Mpumalanga Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The proposed Camden I SEF will comprise of the following key components:

- Solar Field.
- Site substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- Operation and maintenance building infrastructure.
- Construction camp laydown.
- Access road.
- Associated infrastructure.

The proposed development footprint (buildable area) is approximately 280ha, and the full extent of the project site is approximately 695ha and was assessed. The development footprint includes the solar PV arrays and all associated infrastructures as outlined above.

Technical details of the proposed infrastructure:

Infrastructure	Description/ Dimensions
Solar Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ PV Modules ■ Up to 100MW ■ Footprint: 280ha ■ Maximum combined height: up to 10m (i.e., total height of structure (5m) and panel (5m) will be up to 10m). ■ Fixed tilt, single axis tracking or dual axis tracking mounting structures of monofacial or bifacial Solar PV Modules. ■ Low and medium voltage cabling between components (above or below ground as needed). ■ Inverters, transformers and other required associated electrical infrastructure and components. ■ Agri-Voltaic principles could be considered in the final design.
Battery Energy Storage System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Footprint: up to 5ha ■ Storage capacity: up to 100MW/400MWh with up to four hours of storage. ■ The main components of the BESS include the batteries, power conversion system and transformer which will all be stored in various rows of containers.
Site Substation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ IPP portion site substation. ■ Footprint: 1.5ha. ■ Components include high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple up to 132kV feeder bays and transformers, control building telecommunication, and other substation components as required.
Operation and Maintenance Building	<p>Components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Operations building of approximately 200m² ■ Workshop and stores area of approximately 300m²; and ■ Refuse area for temporary waste storage and septic and/or conservancy tanks to service ablution facilities.
Construction Camp Laydown Area	<p>Temporary infrastructure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A construction camp area and concrete batching plant (up to 5ha footprint). ■ The site will also accommodate a cement silo.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Temporary laydown area (up to 2ha) for the storage of equipment, materials, fuels, cement, chemicals etc; and ■ Sewage: septic and/or conservancy tanks and portable toilets.
Access Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Internal gravel roads of approximately 8km will be developed. ■ The internal access roads required by the facility will be without reserve and vary between 8 - 20m wide and where required for turning circle/bypass areas, access or internal roads may be up to 20m to allow for larger component transport.
Associated Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Medium voltage collector system will comprise of cables up to and including 33kV that run underground, except where a technical assessment suggest that overhead lines are required, within the facility connecting the solar PV arrays to the onsite substation ■ Fencing of up to 4m high around the construction camp, O&M building and Site substation and BESS areas; and ■ Any other associated infrastructure, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>J</i> Fencing around the facility (or where required) and lighting <i>J</i> Lightning protection <i>J</i> Telecommunication infrastructure <i>J</i> Storm water channels <i>J</i> Water pipelines <i>J</i> Offices <i>J</i> Operational control centre <i>J</i> Operation and Maintenance Area/Warehouse/workshop <i>J</i> Ablution facilities <i>J</i> A gate house <i>J</i> Control centre <i>J</i> Warehouses <i>J</i> Security building <i>J</i> A visitor's centre; and <i>J</i> Substation building.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed Camden I Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of Welgelegen Farm No. 322, near Ermelo within Msukaligwa Local Municipality in Mpumalanga Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant, or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this Environmental Authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further Environmental Authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an Environmental Authorisation must apply for an amendment of the Environmental Authorisation with the Competent Authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be made for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within ten (10) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

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 14 (fourteen) 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 the National Appeal Regulations, 2014,
 - 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.

Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

13. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to the registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 13.1. The position of the solar PV panels.
 - 13.2. All associated infrastructure.
 - 13.3. Onsite Substation and the coordinates.
 - 13.4. The BESS and the coordinates.
 - 13.5. The proposed internal road (length and width).
 - 13.6. Construction laydown areas, buildings and their coordinates.
 - 13.7. All sensitive features; and
 - 13.8. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the EIAR is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map. The EMPr must be made

available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.

15. The amended EMPr must include the final layout map and mitigation measures that are an outcome of the walkthrough.
16. The EMPr 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.
17. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
18. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAr be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

19. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 25 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
22. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated because of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
23. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure

plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

24. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.
- 24.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 24.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 24.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

25. All documentation e.g., audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
26. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
27. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
28. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
29. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the

audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr,

30. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

31. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

32. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

33. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and Competent Authority at that time.

Specific conditions

34. Construction must only commence once the Protected Area status (Proclaimed Private Nature Reserve: Langcarel Private Nature Reserve) has been changed or deproclaimed for the directly affected properties (i.e., Portion 1 of Farm No. 322 Welgelegen).
35. A walk down as recommended by the terrestrial and avifaunal specialists must be conducted prior construction. The outcome of the walkthrough must inform the final layout, and this must be included in final the EMPr.
36. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
37. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of protected or endangered plant or animal species.
38. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.


39. The cemetery at CA003 must be avoided with a 30m buffer zone and fenced off with an access gate.
40. All excavations into bedrock must be monitored by a suitably qualified palaeontologist and a report on the outcomes of the monitoring activities must be submitted to SAHRA on completion of the development of the facility.
41. Construction must include design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
42. 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.
43. Hazardous substances must be stored in a bunded and designated area to avoid accidental leakage into the environment.
44. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of Section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).

General

45. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 45.1. at the site of the authorised activity,
 - 45.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 45.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

46. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of Environmental Authorisation: 09/08/2023



Ms Millicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

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

- a) The listed activities as applied for in the application form received on 24 February 2022.
- b) The email dated 27 February 2023 clarifying listed activities.
- c) The email from Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency dated 01 March 2023 confirming the withdrawal of Langcarel Private Nature Reserve as a declared Nature Reserve under the Game Ordinance, 1949 (No. 23 of 1949) and the Native Flora Protection Ordinance, 1940 (No. 9 of 1940).
- d) The acceptance of final scoping report issued on 08 April 2022.
- e) The information contained in the final EIAr dated 01 November 2022.
- f) The comments received from all interested and affected parties as included in the final EIAr dated 01 November 2022.
- g) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAr and the EMPr for the facility and the generic EMPr dated 01 November 2022.
- h) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final EIAr.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered in the Department's consideration of the application.

A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures,
- b) The need for the proposed project which ties with the national government policies, plans, and programmes which have relevance to energy planning and production.
- c) The final EIAr dated 01 November 2022 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAr.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final EIAr dated 01 November 2022 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, 2014 as amended for public involvement.

3. Findings

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

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the final EIAr dated 01 November 2022 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAr and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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Ms. Milicent Solomons
Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms. Solomons

APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTERGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS (ACTING), FROM 01 MARCH UNTIL 31 MARCH 2023

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as Acting Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations from 01 March until 31 March 2023.

All correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations during must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Intergrated Environmental Authorisations during the above-mentioned period.

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 1998), 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: Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring

Date: 27 February 2023



Batho pele - putting people first

The processing of personal information by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment is done lawfully and not excessive to the purpose of processing in compliance with the POPI Act, any codes of conduct issued by the Information Regulator in terms of the POPI Act and / or relevant legislation providing appropriate security safeguards for the processing of personal information of others

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACCEPT / DOUW#CCrPT
appointment as Acting Chief Director
Intergrated Environmental Authorisations
Signed: M. Schryer

Date: 27/02/2023