



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2569

Enquiries: Ms Thembisile Hlatshwayo

Telephone: (012) 399 8838 **E-mail:** Thlatshwayo@dfpe.gov.za

Mr Warren Morse
Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 (Pty) Ltd
Postnet Suite #53
Private Bag X21
HOWARD PLACE
7450

Telephone number: (+27) 021 685 3240
Email Address: warren@mulilo.com

PER EMAIL

Dear Mr Morse

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE PROPOSED DU PLESSIS DAM SOLAR PV1 GRID CONNECTION SWITCHING STATION AND 132KV POWER LINE CONNECTING THE DU PLESSIS DAM SOLAR PV1 TO THE MULILO CLUSTER 1 SUBSTATION, DE AAR IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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

In terms of Regulation 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 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 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.

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.

15

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 twenty (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.

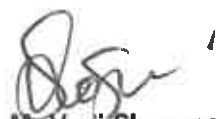
By email: appealsdirector@dfpe.gov.za;

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

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Vusi Skosana

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

Date: 28 September 2022

cc:	Annelize Erasmus	Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd	Email: info@landscapedynamics.co.za
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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

Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 grid connection, switching station and 132kV power line connecting the Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 to the Mulilo Cluster 1 Substation, De Aar in the Northern Cape Province

Pixley ka Seme District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	<i>14/12/16/3/3/1/2569</i>
Last amended:	<i>First issue</i>
Holder of authorisation:	<i>Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 (Pty) Ltd</i>
Location of activity:	<i>The Remainder of the Farm Du Plessis Dam No 179; Portion 10 of the Farm De Aar 180; Portion 5 of the Farm De Aar 180; Portions 4 of the Farm De Aar 180 Portions 1 of the Farm De Aar 180 within the Emthanjeni Local Municipality in the 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 –

DU PLESSIS DAM SOLAR PV1 (PTY) LTD

with the following contact details –

Mr Warren Morse

Postnet Suite #53

Private Bag X21

HOWARD PLACE

7450

Telephone number: (021) 685 3240

Email Address: warren@mulilo.com

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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11(i):</u> <i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</i> <i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.</i></p>	<p>A 132kV overhead power line will be constructed.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27(i)(ii)</u> <i>The clearance of an area of 1 hectares of more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for</i> <i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity</i> <i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan</i></p>	<p>The switching station site with the adjacent laydown area will involve the clearance of indigenous vegetation of approximately 1.5ha.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28(ii)</u> <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</i> <i>and where such development:</i> <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare,</i> <i>excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</i></p>	<p>The switching station and grid connection will be constructed on a total area exceeding 1 hectare in extent outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4(g)(ii)(ee)(gg)</u> <i>The development of a road wider than 4 meters with a reserve less than 13,5metres in</i> <i>(g) the Northern Cape</i> <i>(ii) outside urban areas in</i></p>	<p>Listing Notice 3 is applicable because: The switching station, laydown area and northern sections of the power line route</p>

<p><i>(ee) Critical Biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; and in</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</i></p>	<p>alternatives fall within a Critical Biodiversity Area.</p> <p>There is a protected area, the De Aar Nature Reserve, approximately 4,5km west of the proposed development site.</p> <p>A new ±6m wide access road will be constructed along the line route for construction and maintenance purposes – this road will be inside the power line servitude.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 10(g)(iii)(ee)(gg)</u></p> <p><i>The development and related operation of facilities for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres in</i></p> <p><i>(g) the Northern</i></p> <p><i>(iii) outside urban areas in</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical Biodiversity Areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; and in</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</i></p>	<p>Listing Notice 3 is applicable because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The switching station, laydown area and northern sections of the power line route alternatives fall within a Critical Biodiversity Area 2. • There is also a protected area, the De Aar Nature Reserve, approximately 4,5km west of the proposed development site. • Diesel storage of less than 80m³ is required at the 132kV Switching Station during construction. Diesel is required for construction vehicles as well as generators for the construction camp and commissioning whilst waiting for the Eskom grid connection works to be completed. • During operations, diesel is required for Operations & Maintenance vehicles at the PV plants but also required for backup diesel generators at the substations and will be stored in a permanent above ground diesel tank. The generators supply auxiliary power to the substation's protection and

	communications systems, should there be outages on the grid. This is an Eskom requirement together with a battery room at the substations to act as UPS for these critical systems.
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 12</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a management maintenance plan.</i></p>	<p>The switching station, laydown area and northern sections of the power line route alternatives fall within a Critical Biodiversity Area 2. The switching station site with the adjacent laydown area will result in the clearing of an area of approximately 1,5ha (equals 15 000m²).</p>

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated August 2022 at:

SG 21 Code

C	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	9	0	0	0	0	
C	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	1	0
C	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	5
C	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	4
C	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	1

Power line Co-ordinates

Preferred Route coordinates	Latitude	Longitude
Start	24° 2' 48.21" E	30° 38' 15.65" S
Middle	24° 4' 49.11" E	30° 38' 50.04" S
End point (Mulilo Cluster 1 Substation)	24° 4' 1.99" E	30° 40' 40.93" S

- for the proposed Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 grid connection, switching station and 132kV power line connecting the Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 to the Mulilo Cluster 1 Substation, De Aar in the Northern Cape Province.

The project entails the following infrastructure:

Switching Station and 132kV power line connecting the Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 to the Mulilo Cluster 1 Substation.

Technical details of the proposed development:

Infrastructure	Description / dimensions
Power line (Grid connection)	132kV S/C Overhead Power line will connect the Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 Eskom Switching Station with the Mulilo Cluster 1 Substation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length/Route is approximately 7.6km. • Eskom Servitude width is 31m. • A 300m wide corridor was assessed. • Associated infrastructure at the Overhead Power Line Route/Servitude: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Steel monopole structures. ➤ ACSR & OPGW Conductors. ➤ Foundations and Earthing. ➤ Line Hardware and Accessories.
Access roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ±2km, 12m wide access road. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Starting point at the R48 and ends at the PV1 switching station. ➤ ±6m wide access road will be constructed along the line route for construction and maintenance purposes – this road will be inside the power line servitude.
Switching Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33/132kV switching yard. • ±0.5 hectares in size (50m x 100m). • Internal access roads of 6m wide. • Associated infrastructure at the Switching Station: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outdoor Mechanical-Electrical High Voltage Equipment ➤ Indoor Medium Voltage Switchgear and Low Voltage Control gear. ➤ Lighting Protection Equipment. ➤ Perimeter and internal Fencing.

Infrastructure	Description / dimensions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Buildings required for operation (i.e., ablutions required for maintenance staff).
Laydown area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A construction site area of ±1 hectares directly adjacent to the PV1 Switching Station is required. • All temporary infrastructure will be rehabilitated following the completion of the construction phase, where it is not required for the operation phase.
Storage of diesel	<p>Diesel storage of less than 80m³ for the 132kV Switching Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During construction, diesel is required for construction vehicles as well as generators for the construction camp and commissioning whilst waiting for the Eskom grid connection works to be completed. • During operations, diesel is required for Operations & Maintenance vehicles at the PV plants but also required for backup diesel generators at the substations. The Generators supply auxiliary power to the substation's protection and communications systems, should there be outages on the grid. This is an Eskom requirement together with a battery room at the substations to act as UPS for these critical systems.
Temporary Services	<p>During the construction phase, temporary sanitation facilities will be provided (i.e., chemical toilets) and these toilets will be regularly serviced by a licensed company.</p>

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The proposed Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 grid connection, switching station and 132kV power line (Alternative Route 1) connecting the Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 to the Mulilo Cluster 1 Substation, De Aar in the Northern Cape Province is hereby 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 in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within five (05) 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 (final layout with environmental sensitivities) 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. All available information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g., approved substation in relation to the location of the switching station. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 13.1. Proposed $\pm 6\text{m}$ wide access road and the co-ordinates;
 - 13.2. Aboveground diesel tank/s and the co-ordinates;
 - 13.3. Co-ordinates of the proposed switching station; and
 - 13.4. All sensitive features and buffer areas.
14. The generic EMPr for the substation and power line appended to the final BAR dated August 2022 is not approved and must be amended to include the following:
 - 14.1. Signed Part B: Section 2 of the generic EMPr as required and for compliance with the requirements of generic EMPr published by the Department (No 435 of 22 March 2019); and
 - 14.2. Signed and dated Generic EMPr by both the contractor and the holder of the EA. The revised generic EMPr must comply with the requirements as mentioned in the generic EMPr published by the Department (No 435 of 22 March 2019); and
 - 14.3. The revised generic EMPr must include the final layout map.

15

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

15. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 22 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.
16. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
17. 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.
18. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr, which has been updated as a result 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.
19. 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

20. 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.
 - 20.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 20.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 20.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.

20.4. 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

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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

27. 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

28. 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

29. 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

30. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.
31. Suitable bird repelling structures and bird diverters must be installed to avoid collision of birds with the infrastructure.
32. A permit must be obtained from the relevant nature conservation agency for the removal or destruction of protected or endangered plant or animal species.
33. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be utilised.
34. Should archaeological sites or graves be exposed in other areas during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.
35. Fuel storage tanks must be bunded to contain any possible spills and to prevent any infiltration of fuel into the ground;
36. 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

37. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 37.1. at the site of the authorised activity,
 - 37.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 37.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
38. 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: 28 September 2027



Mr Vusi Skosana

**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 amended application form submitted with the final BAR dated August 2022 and email received by the Competent Authority (CA) on 23 September 2022.
- b) The information contained in the final BAR dated August 2022.
- c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the final BAR dated August 2022.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the final BAR and the EMPs for the infrastructure.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final BAR dated August 2022.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

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

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project is to connect the Du Plessis Dam Solar PV1 to the Mulilo Cluster 1 Substation.
- c) The final BAR dated August 2022 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed development, which avoid identified sensitive areas.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final BAR dated August 2022 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) 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 BAR dated August 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 BAR 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.