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90 Long Street
Private Bag X6102
Kimberley
8300
Tel. 053-8077300
Fax: 053-8077328

Date :
Leshupelo :
Umhla :
Datum :
14th August 2023

Enquires :
Dipaliso :
Imbuzo :
Navrae :
Reference :
NCBA/10/FB/SOL/KIM1/2023
Tshupelo :
Isalathiso :
Verwysing :

Ekapa Minerals (Pty) Ltd
Ester van der Westhuizen-Coetzee
1 Molyneux Road
Beaconsfield
KIMBERLEY
8301

Email: Ester.vanderWesthuizen-Coetzee@ekapagroup.com

Dear Sir/Madam

THE GRANTING OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR: ACTIVITY NO. 11 (I), ACTIVITY NO. 24 (II), ACTIVITY NO. 56 (I) OF GN. R.327 OF 07 APRIL 2017, ACTIVITY NO. 1, ACTIVITY NO. 15 OF GN. R.325 OF 07 APRIL 2017 (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PLANT PROJECT AT EKAPA MINE-BOSHOF FLOORS, KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE.

By virtue of power conferred to me by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014: **ACTIVITY NO. 11 (I), ACTIVITY NO. 24 (II), ACTIVITY NO. 56 (I) OF GN. R.327 OF 07 APRIL 2017, ACTIVITY NO. 1, ACTIVITY NO. 15 OF GN. R.325 OF 07 APRIL 2017 (AS AMENDED): THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PLANT PROJECT AT EKAPA MINE-BOSHOF FLOORS, KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE.**

A detail description of the activity is given in the **Final basic assessment report dated June 2023**, subject to the conditions listed in the environmental authorisation and reasons for the decision are attached herewith. In terms of regulation 4 (2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of receiving of this letter, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the provisions regarding the making of appeals that are provided for in the regulations.

Permit 21/2023

Your attention is drawn to chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulation which regulates appeal procedures. Should you/ any person affected by this decision wish to appeal any aspect of the prescribed in regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014, with the Member of the Executive Council, Ministry of Environment and Nature Conservation within 20 days of receiving this letter, by means of one of the following methods:

By facsimile:

(053) 8077328

By post:

Private Bag X 6102, Kimberley, 8300 or

By hand:

90 Long Street, Kimberley, 8300

Should you decide to appeal, you must serve a copy of your notice of intention to appeal on all registered interested and affected parties as well as a notice indicating where, and for what period, the appeal submission will be available for inspection.

Yours Faithfully



MR. B FISHER: DIRECTOR

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT & LAND REFORM

DATE OF DECISION:

18 August 2023

Cc: SHANGONI MANAGEMENT SERVICES (PTY) LTD
Lee-Anne Fellows
Email: lesley@shangoni.co.za

DEFINITIONS

"Activity" means an activity identified in any notice published by the Minister or MEC in terms of section 24D (1) (a) of the Act as a listed activity or specified activity;

"Proponent" means a person intending to submit an application for environmental authorisation and is referred to as an applicant once such application for environmental authorisation has been submitted;

"Application" means an application for an -

(a) environmental authorization in terms of Chapter 4 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

(b) amendment to an environmental authorisation in terms of Chapter 5 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

(c) amendment to an EMPr in terms of Chapter 5 the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

(d) amendment of a closure plan in terms of Chapter 5 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Basic Assessment Report" means a report contemplated in regulation 19 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Environmental Impact Assessment Report" means a report contemplated in regulation 23 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment" means a study contemplated in regulation 22 which forms part of a scoping report and sets out how an environmental impact assessment will be conducted;

"Scoping Report" means a report contemplated in regulation 21 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"EAP" means an Environmental Assessment Practitioner as defined in section 1 of the Act;

"EIA" means Environmental Impact Assessment;

"EMPr" means an environmental management programme contemplated in regulations 19 and 23 of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment regulations;

"Registered Interested and Affected Party" in relation to an application, means an interested and affected party whose name is recorded in the register opened for that application in terms of regulation 42; given an opportunity to comment on, or rare issues relevant to specific activity;

"Public Participation Process" means the process in which potential interested and affected parties are Development & Land Reform.

"Department" means the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform.

"The Act" means the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998).

The development of a road with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.

Activity No.24 (ii) of GN. R. 327 of April 2017 (as amended)

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

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

Activity No.11 (i) of GN. R. 327 of April 2017 (as amended)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PLANT PROJECT AT EKAPA MINE-BOSHOF FLOORS, KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity")

Email: Esther.vanderWesthuizen-Coetzee@ekapagroup.com

Tel: (053) 838 7274
Cell: 072 335 0273

8301
KIMBERLEY
Beaconsfield
1 Molyneux Road
Esther van der Westhuizen-Coetzee

with the following contact details –

Ekapa Minerals (Pty) LTD

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

ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

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

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

DECISION

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

Hereafter referred to as "the property".

28°43'54.63"S; 24°48'7.69"E

28°43'50.50"S; 24°47'53.58"E

28°43'37.28"S; 24°47'51.24"E

28°43'42.45"S; 24°47'41.09"E

28°43'43.99"S; 24°47'39.77"E

28°43'50.90"S; 24°47'38.55"E

28°44'7.74"S; 24°47'38.28"E

PV Solar Plant

At the Remaining Extent of the farm Dorfontein 77, near Kimberley which falls within the Jurisdiction of Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, Frances Baard District Municipality in Northern Cape, with the following co-ordinates;

The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

Activity No.15 of GN. R. 325 of April 2017 (as amended)

the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more.

The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where

Activity No.1 of GN. R. 325 of April 2017 (as amended)

(i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters.

The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre -

Activity No.56 (i) of GN. R. 327 of April 2017 (as amended)

10. This authorization is subject to the approval by the relevant local authorities i.e. in terms of any relevant legislation administered by those local authorities.
9. Non-compliance with a condition of this authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the regulations.
8. The holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing and within 24 (Twenty-Four) hours, if condition 16 of this authorisation cannot be or is not adhered to. In all other cases, the holder of the authorisation must notify the Department, in writing, within seven (7) days if any condition of this authorisation is not adhered to. Any notification in terms of this condition must be accompanied by reasons for the non-compliance.
7. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/ or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
6. A copy of this authorisation must be kept at the property where the activities will be undertaken. The authorisation 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.

General conditions:

5. 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 activities.
4. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be 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.
3. The activities which are authorised **must** only be carried out at the property indicated above.
2. The holder of the authorisation **must** be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his or her behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, sub-contractor, employee or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
1. Authorisation of the activity subject to the conditions contained in this authorisation, which conditions form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.

Scope of authorisation:

CONDITIONS

18. This Department and any national department, provincial department, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this application or any other public authority or organization shall not be held responsible for any damage 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 approval as

17. In the event of any dispute concerning the significance of a particular impact, the opinion of this department in respect of its significance will prevail.

16. This Department may add to, change and/or amend any of the conditions in this authorization if, in the opinion of the Department, the addition, change of amendment is environmentally justified. In event that such impacts exceed its significance as predicted in the independent consultant's environmental scoping report and supporting documentation, the authorization may be withdrawn after proper procedures were followed.

15. Environmental Management Inspectors employed by the Department shall be given access to the property as described above (see detailed description of the activities) for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorization. Where the activity is located on a third party's property the applicant shall be responsible to arrange access for departmental officials.

14. The applicant must carry out regular environmental audits to establish compliance with the conditions of this authorization and contracts.

13. The applicable conditions of this authorization must form part of all contractors' and sub-contractors' conditions of contract. A performance-based requirement with regard to environmental impact management must be included in all contracts related to any aspect of this authorization.

- i. Condition: 11
- a. **Seven (7) days** written notice must be given to the Department before commencement with the activity.
- b. Such notice shall make clear reference to the site location details and the reference number given above.
- c. The said notice must also include proof of compliance with the following condition described herein:

12. The activities, including site preparation, may not commence before the thirty (30) day appeal period expires or until such time as the Department has considered any appeals that have been lodged.

11. The activities **must** not commence without the necessary permits/licenses/approvals and/or service agreements, where it is relevant, from or with the relevant regulatory authorities whether national, provincial or local (these include but not limited to National Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment; National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development; Department of Human Settlements; Department of Water & Sanitation; Department of Mineral Resources & Energy; Department of Transport; Department of Employment & Labour; Department of Public Works & Infrastructure; Department of Sports, Arts & Culture; South African Heritage Resources Agency; South African Civil Aviation Authority).

- 32. Fire management plan must be available on site at all times and employees must be made aware of the plan.
- 31. Storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must comply with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water.
- 30. The Department reserves the right to amend the EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- 29. Changes to the EMPr, which are environmentally defensible, must be submitted to this Department for acceptance before such changes are effected.
- 28. The EMPr must be strictly enforced during all phases of the project.

Monitoring

- 27. All works to be conducted in an environmentally sensitive manner and in accordance with the EMPr and conditions of this authorization.
- 26. Ensure that all "NO-GO" areas are clearly defined and adequately demarcated.
- 25. The Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation must be implemented. (Alternatively, if further changes are required to the EMPr as a result of the authorisation, this condition must be modified).

Management of activity:

- 22. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of Government Notice No. R993, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed.
- 21. In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the Department decision in respect of the amendment made as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

Appeal of authorisation:

- 20. The applicant must apply the principle of best practicable environmental option for all technologies used/ implemented during construction and operation phase.
 - 19. The applicant shall be responsible for all costs necessary to comply with the above conditions unless otherwise specified.
- set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of approval.

43. Any complaints regarding the said development must be brought to the attention of the Department within 24 hours after receiving the complaints; register must be kept up to date for inspection by the Department. Where any of the applicant's contact details change, including the name of the responsible person, the physical or postal address and/ or telephonic details, the applicant must notify the Department as soon as the new details become known to the applicant.
42. Records relating to compliance or non-compliance with any condition of this authorization must be kept in good order. Such records must be made available to any Official from Monitoring Compliance and Enforcement section of the Directorate; Environmental Management within seven (7) days of written request by the said Officer.
41. 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.

Recording and Reporting to the Department

40. Photographs must be taken (before, during and immediately after construction as a visual reference).
39. 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.
38. 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.
37. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, potential impacts, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
36. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the Director; Compliance Monitoring of the Department.
35. The ECO must meet with the contractors to discuss the conditions of the **Environmental Authorisation** and the contents of the EMP prior to commencement of activities.
34. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activity.
33. 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 EMP.

Environmental Control Officer (ECO) and Duties

46. Seven (7) 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.
47. The authorised activities must not commence before the statutory 30 days of an appeal period has expired.
48. Should you be notified by the Minister of a suspension of the authorization pending appeal procedures, you must not commence with the activities unless authorized by the Minister in writing.
49. The removal of natural vegetation must be restricted to the footprint of the proposed activity.
50. Notice boards must be erected to inform construction workers about floral and faunal species of conservation concern.
51. All species of conservation concern must be relocated to a suitable habitat by a suitably qualified person, after obtaining the relevant permit from the authority.
52. Hunting and killing of animal species is strictly prohibited.
53. In the event where faunal species gets trapped in trenches, rescue measures must be performed by the suitably qualified person.
54. Backfill material must only be obtained from legal sources, which have permits to source such materials.
55. Environmental training must be conducted for the staff/employees before commencement of the project and environmental awareness must be given throughout the life cycle of the project. Workers should be informed that the hunting, snaring and killing of fauna is not allowed on site.

Operation of the activity

44. The holder of the authorization must submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase and within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
45. The Environmental audit report must:
- Be compiled by an independent environmental auditor;
 - Indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorization conditions as well as the requirements of the EMPr.
 - Include measures to be implemented to attend to any non-compliance.
 - Include copies of any approvals granted by other authorities relevant to the department for the reporting period.
 - Highlight any outstanding environmental issues that must be addressed, along with recommendations for ensuring that they are appropriately addressed.
 - Include evidence of adherence to the conditions of this authorisation and the EMPr where relevant such as training records.

Environmental audit report

56. Measures to control the spreading of invasive alien plants must be in place and be implemented.
57. Excavated topsoil must be kept clean from invasive alien plants.
58. Environmental impacts must be monitored and managed effectively throughout the life cycle of the project.
59. Habitat fragmentation must be avoided where possible.
60. All topsoil stockpiles must be protected against all forms of erosion and must be kept separate from other material to maintain its viability with a height not exceeding 2m.
61. Stream system including the riparian zone as delineated, situated adjacent to the solar footprint must be completely excluded from the footprint of the development.
62. The alignment of the transmission line must aim to place pylons on either side of watercourses being crossed and not within the channel, so as to minimize erosion.
63. Storm water management plan must be developed in order to manage storm water and to prevent erosion.
64. In the event where erosion occurs and cause environmental degradation as a result of these authorized activity, the holder of this environmental authorization must take responsibility to recover the damaged properties as soon as possible.
65. The storm water flowing out of the application site must not be contaminated by any substance, whether such substance is a solid, liquid, gas or a combination thereof.
66. Should any archaeological remains be found on site, the South African Heritage Agency (SAHRA) must be contacted and all works must cease immediately in that area, failure to do so constitute an offence in terms of the National Heritage Resource Act, 1993 (Act no. 25 of 1999) as amended.
67. All waste generated must be collected and be disposed-off into a licensed landfill site.
68. The movement of vehicles is restricted to the boundaries of the authorized site.
69. Vehicle repairs and repairs of any machinery must not be conducted on site.
70. The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act no. 85 of 1993) must be implemented by an independent Health and Safety Officer.
71. Chemical mobile toilets must be made available for workers on site, and must be serviced on regular basis.
72. Inert building rubble and waste rock must be used as backfill material where possible, and/or disposed-off at a licensed landfill site.
73. The level of dust generated onsite must be kept as low as possible and must comply with the Dust Control Regulations (No. R. 827).

- 74. The dust suppression techniques must be properly implemented to prevent the dispersion of dust particles into the air.
 - 75. The level of noise generated on site must be kept as low as possible and must be restricted within the normal working hours.
 - 76. The level of noise must also comply with the Noise Control Regulations (GN R 154) as well as the acceptable day rating levels as per the SANS10103:2008 guidelines.
 - 77. Hazardous materials must be safely stored in designated areas, with properly visible signs, in a manner that does not endanger human health or the environment.
 - 78. The holder of this environmental authorization must take adequate precautions to ensure that open fires do not ignite as a result of works on site.
- Site Closure and Decommissioning:**
- 79. Should the proposed activity ever cease or become redundant, the applicant 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.
 - 80. The holder of this Environmental Authorization must consult with the Department prior to decommissioning of this activity.
 - 81. All areas disturbed by the project must be rehabilitated to an acceptable condition.

MR. B. FISHER
DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LAND REFORM
DATE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: 18 August 2025



that the appeal is finalised.

thereo. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time under section 43 of that Act will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached Please note that in terms of section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, an appeal

The Member of the Executive Council
 Ministry of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform
 Private Bag X6102
 Kimberley
 8300
 Fax: (053) 832 1026

Appeals must be submitted in writing to:

An appellant must submit an 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 applicant by the competent authority.

APPEAL

This activity(s) must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue. If commencement of the activity(s) does not occur within that period and the intention is to extend the validity period of the authorization, an application for amendment to extend the validity period must be launched at least three (3) months prior to the expiry date of the validity period. 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.

DURATION AND PERIOD OF VALIDITY

ANNEXURE 1: REASONS FOR DECISION

1. Background

The applicant **EKapa Minerals (Pty) LTD** applied for environmental authorization to carry on the following activity –

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PLANT PROJECT AT EKAPA MINE-BOSHOFF FLOORS, KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

Activity No.11 (i) of GN. R. 327 of April 2017 (as amended)

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

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

Activity No.24 (ii) of GN. R. 327 of April 2017 (as amended)

The development of a road with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.

Activity No.56 (i) of GN. R. 327 of April 2017 (as amended)

The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre - (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters.

Activity No.1 of GN. R. 325 of April 2017 (as amended)

The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more.

Activity No.15 of GN. R. 325 of April 2017 (as amended)

The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

At the Remaining Extent of the farm Dorfontein 77, near Kimberley which falls within the jurisdiction of Sol Plaatje Local Municipality, Frances Baard District Municipality in Northern Cape, with the following co-ordinates;

PV Solar Plant

28°44'7.74"S; 24°47'38.28"E

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28°43'50.50"S; 24°47'53.58"E

28°43'54.63"S; 24°48'7.69"E

Hereafter referred to as "the property";

The applicant appointed Shangoni Management Services (Pty) Ltd to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment process. A Basic Assessment process was followed.

2. Information considered in making the decision

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

- a) The Environmental Assessment Practitioner complied with Regulation 19 of April 2017.
- b) Public participation followed in line with Regulation 41 of April 2017 and the proof was submitted together with the Basic Assessment Report dated June 2023.
- c) The information contained in the Basic Assessment Report dated June 2023 submitted by the Environmental Assessment Practitioner.
- d) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the Basic Assessment Report.
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 and 23 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act, 2002 (Act No. 28 of 2002) and the Northern Cape Conservation Act, 2009 (Act No. 9 of 2009).
- f) The findings of the site visit undertaken by Mr. Thulani Mthombeni (Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform) and Ester van der Westhuizen-Coetzee (Ekapa Minerals) during site inspection on 10 August 2023.

granted.

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

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the Basic Assessment Report dated June 2023.
- b) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- c) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for decision-making process.
- d) All interested and affected parties had no objections to the project.

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

4. Findings

- a) The EAP who prepared the report has the expertise to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment procedures.
- b) Impacts of the proposed activity on the receiving environment were described in terms of geographical, physical, biological, social, economic and cultural aspects.
- c) Environmental Impact Assessment identified all legislation and guidelines it considered in preparing the report.
- d) The EAP took into account comments from interested and affected parties and incorporated them into making the Basic Assessment Report.
- e) The need and desirability for the proposed activity.

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.

3. Key factors considered in making the decision