



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: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2548/1

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Mr Maro Turner
Doornhoek PV (Pty) Ltd
101, First Floor, West Quay Building
7 West Quay Road
Waterfront
CAPE TOWN
8000

Telephone Number: (021) 418 2596
E-mail Address: Maro.Turner@ameapower.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Mr Turner

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (SPLITTING AND REISSUE OF EA) ISSUED ON 06 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE 115MW DOORNHOEK 1 PV FACILITY ON PORTION 18 OF THE FARM DOORNHOEK 372 IP WITHIN THE CITY OF MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the abovementioned application issued by this Department on 06 September 2022, your application for amendment of the EA received by the Department on 22 February 2023, the acknowledgement letter dated 24 February 2023 and the additional information received on 24 February 2023, refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5, Regulation 27(2)(a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 06 September 2022 by issuing a new EA.

The applicant applied for the following amendments:

- 1) Splitting of the existing EA for the authorised PV Facility and grid infrastructure into two separate EAs, as follows:
 - The 115MW Doornhoek 1 PV Facility; and
 - Doornhoek PV Grid Connection Infrastructure.
- 2) Change of the EA holder contact person and details.

Reason for the amendment is as follows:

The Doornhoek PV Facility, consisting of Doornhoek 1 (14/12/16/3/3/1/2548) and Doornhoek 2 (14/12/16/3/3/1/2549) PV projects, were selected as a preferred bidder in Round 6 of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme on 08 December 2022. The two projects (Doornhoek 1 and Doornhoek 2) will however be developed and operated as a single facility. The amendments being applied for are for the purposes of splitting the authorised grid connection infrastructure from the PV facility infrastructure. Both the PV facility infrastructure and the grid will remain with the current holder of the Authorisation (Doornhoek PV (Pty) Ltd), however the grid connection component will be transferred to Eskom on completion of construction in compliance with the self-build agreement. A further amendment is proposed to change the contact details of the holder of the EA to align with those reflected in the company registration documents.

The attached EA will replace the EA dated 06 September 2022. All further amendments must be lodged on the attached EA.

General

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 of the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are contained in the Regulations.

In terms of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, 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, Act No. 4 of 2013 which stipulates 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 National Environmental Management Act, 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 Department, whichever is applicable.

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

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

By email: appeals@dffe.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.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations or request a copy of the documents at appeals@dffe.gov.za.

Yours faithfully:



Ms Millicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Date: 27/03/2023

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| cc: | Ouma Skosana | NW DEDEC&T | E-mail: oskosana@nwppg.gov.za |
| | A Khuzwayo | City of Matlosana District Municipality | E-mail: akhuzwayo@klerksdorp.org |
| | T Tsime | City of Matlosana District Municipality | E-mail: eacc@klerksdorp.org |
| | Dale Holder | Cape EAPrac | E-mail: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za |



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of Regulation 20(1)(a) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014,
as amended

**THE 115MW DOORNHOEK 1 PV FACILITY ON PORTION 18 OF THE FARM DOORNHOEK 372 IP WITHIN
THE CITY OF MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality

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| Authorisation register number: | 14/12/16/3/3/1/2548/1 |
| Last amended: | Splitting and Re-Issue First Issue: 06 September 2022 |
| Holder of authorisation: | Doornhoek PV (Pty) Ltd |
| Location of activity: | <i>Portion 18 of the Farm Doornhoek 372 IP, City of Matlosana Local Municipality, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, North West 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, 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, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, the Department hereby authorises –

DOORNHOEK PV (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Maro Turner
101, First Floor, West Quay Building
7 West Quay Road, Waterfront

CAPE TOWN

8000

Telephone Number: (021) 418 2596
Cell phone Number: +971 56 994 1254
Email Address: Maro.Turner@ameapower.com

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

| Activity number | Activity description |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 11:</u> <i>“The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts”</i></p> | <p>The facility includes MV cabling of up to 33 kilovolts as well as an on-site substation of up to 132 kilovolts.</p> |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 24</u> <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>The proposed main access road to Doornhoek 1 PV will be up to 8m wide, but with the inclusion of side drains and gavel embankments up to 10m.</p> |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28</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 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 Doornhoek 1 PV development is considered to be commercial use and the total footprint size is up to 200 hectares.</p> |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 56</u> <i>“The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.”</i></p> | <p>The existing access road from the main road will be widened by more than 6m in some places to accommodate the required geometry for heavy vehicle turning.</p> |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 1</u> <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”</i></p> | <p>The photovoltaic facility will generate up to 115 megawatts electricity through the use of a renewable resource.</p> |

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| <p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 15</u></p> <p><i>“The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.”</i></p> | <p>The development footprint of the solar power plant will be up to 200ha.</p> |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4</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>h. North West</i></p> <p><i>i. A protected area including municipal or provincial nature reserves as contemplated by NEMPAA or other legislation.</i></p> <p><i>iv. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority;</i></p> <p><i>vi. Areas within 5 kilometres from protected areas identified in terms of NEMPAA or from a biosphere reserve.”</i></p> | <p>The main access road will have a maximum width of 10m while the internal roads will have a maximum width of 6m. Portions of the main access and internal roads fall within a CBA identified in the North West Province Biodiversity Sector Plan. Portion 18 of the Farm Doornhoek 372-IP is designated as a private nature reserve (Bosworth Private Nature Reserve) in the South African Protected Area Database. Portions of the main and internal roads are within 5 kilometres of the Faan Meintjies Private Nature Reserve.</p> |
| <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.</i></p> <p><i>h. North West</i></p> <p><i>ii. A protected area including municipal and protected nature reserves as contemplated by NEMPAA or other legislation.</i></p> <p><i>iv. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority.”</i></p> | <p>Portion 18 of the Farm Doornhoek 372-IP is designated as a private nature reserve (Bosworth Private Nature Reserve) in the South African Protected Area Database. The clearance of more than 300 square metres will occur within this farm portion. A portion of Doornhoek 1 PV falls within a CBA identified in the North West Province Biodiversity Sector Plan. Development of the facility in these areas will include the clearance of more than 300 square metres of indigenous vegetation.</p> |
| <p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 18</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>h. North West</i></p> <p><i>i. A protected area including municipal or provincial nature reserves as contemplated by NEMPAA or other legislation.</i></p> | <p>Portion 18 of the Farm Doornhoek 372-IP is designated as a private nature reserve (Bosworth Private Nature Reserve) in the South African Protected Area Database. The widening of portions of the existing access road will be required on this farm portion. Portions of the main and internal roads are within 5</p> |

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| <p>ii. Areas within 5km from protected areas identified in terms of NEMPAA or a Biosphere Reserve.</p> <p>v. Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority."</p> | <p>kilometres of the Faan Meintjies Private Nature Reserve A portion of Doornhoek 1 PV falls within a CBA identified in the North West Province Biodiversity Sector Plan. The main access and some of the internal roads of Doornhoek 1 PV occur within this CBA.</p> |
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as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated June 2022 at:

SG 21 Digit Code:

| Farm Description | 21 Digit Surveyor General Code |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Portion 18 of the Farm Doornhoek 372 IP | C00900000000037200018 |

Coordinates: Solar Fields

| Doornhoek 1 PV | Latitude | Longitude |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| North-West Corner | 26° 43' 36.11"S | 26° 37' 09.76"E |
| North-East Corner | 26° 43' 10.81"S | 26° 38' 53.17"E |
| South-West Corner | 26° 44' 03.67"S | 26° 37' 17.27"E |
| South-East Corner | 26° 43' 37.90"S | 26° 38' 49.94"E |

Coordinates for the Access Road:

| Access Road | Latitude | Longitude |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Start | 26° 43' 43.47"S | 26° 39' 06.01"E |
| Middle | 26° 43' 43.15"S | 26° 38' 45.54"E |
| End | 26° 43' 44.46"S | 26° 38' 26.71"E |

Coordinates for the Substations:

| Substations | Latitude | Longitude |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Doornhoek 1 PV IPP Substation | 26° 43' 41.97"S | 26° 38' 27.98"E |

Coordinates for the Additional Infrastructure:

| Additional Infrastructure | Latitude | Longitude |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Laydown Area | 26°43'38.92"S | 26°38'25.92"E |
| Auxiliary Buildings | 26°43'38.77"S | 26°38'31.47"S |

-for the 115MW Doornhoek 1 PV Facility on Portion 18 of the Farm Doornhoek 372 IP within the City of Matlosana Local Municipality within the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The project will include the following:

- Doornhoek 1 PV will have a net generating capacity of up to 115MW with a maximum footprint of 200ha;
- PV modules and mounting structures:
 - Maximum height of ~2.5 m above the ground;
- Inverters and transformers;
- Site and internal access roads (up to 8m wide);
- Operation and Maintenance buildings including a gate house and security building, control centre, offices, warehouses and workshops for storage and maintenance;
- Temporary and permanent laydown area;
- Grid connection infrastructure, including:
 - 33kV cabling between the project components and the facility substation; and
 - A 132kV facility substation.

Technical details for the proposed PV facility

| Component | Description / dimensions |
|--|---|
| Height of PV panels | Solar panels with a maximum height of ± 2.5 m above the ground |
| Capacity of on-site sub- and switching station | Capacity: 132kV Size of the substation: 0.5ha The substation will have switchgear portals up to 15m in height and possible lightning masts up to 25m in height. |

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| | The facility substation will collect the power from the facility and transform it from medium voltage (up to 33kV) to high voltage (up to 132kV). The facility will require inverter-stations, transformers, switchgear, and internal electrical reticulation (underground cabling). |
| Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas | Permanent Laydown Area: ~1ha Construction Laydown Area: ~4ha |
| Access Roads | The access roads will not exceed 8m in width for the wearing course. The total width including all stormwater management structures will not exceed 10m wide. Majority of the access road will comprise expansion of sections of existing farm roads, while a small section will comprise sections of a new road. |
| Internal roads | A network of gravel internal access roads and perimeter roads with a width of ~6m, will be constructed to provide access to the various components of each facility. |
| Additional Infrastructure | Auxiliary buildings of approximately 1ha, including a gate house and security building, control centre, offices, warehouses and workshops for storage and maintenance. Rainwater tanks and electrified perimeter fencing not exceeding 5m in height. |

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of the 115MW Doornhoek 1 PV Facility, IPP substation and associated infrastructure on Portion 18 of the Farm Doornhoek 372 IP within the City of Matlosana Local Municipality within the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West Province as described above, are 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 must 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. The activity must commence within a period of ten (10) years from the date of issue of the original EA issued on 06 September 2022 (i.e., the EA lapses on 06 September 2032). 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 (5) 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 must 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 final site layout plan for the PV facility, as determined by the detailed engineering phase and micro-siting, and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. A copy of the final site layout map must be made available for comments to 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 biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. 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. The finalised access route;
 - 13.3. The on-site substation;
 - 13.4. All associated infrastructure;
 - 13.5. All sensitive features; and
 - 13.6. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
14. The generic Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the substation, submitted as part of the final BAR dated June 2022, is approved. The final site layout plan of the on-site substation must be appended to Part B, 7.2 Sub-section 2: Development footprint site map of the generic EMPr.

15. An Alien Invasive Plant Species Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan must be developed and submitted as part of the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to mitigate habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion.
16. An additional pre-construction 2-3 days avifaunal survey conducted during the peak wet season, must be undertaken for the proposed development and form part of the EMPr submitted to the Department for approval.
17. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the PV facility, submitted as part of the EMPr is not approved and must be amended to include measures, as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this Environmental Authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments to 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.
18. The EMPr amendment must include the following:
 - 18.1. An Alien Invasive Plant Species Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan;
 - 18.2. The requirements and conditions of this Environmental Authorisation;
 - 18.3. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist reports as included in the final BAR dated June 2022;
 - 18.4. The additional pre-construction 2-3 days avifaunal survey undertaken within the peak wet season.
 - 18.5. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats. This plan must ensure to include drainage features that will be infilled and or excavated;
 - 18.6. A storm water and wash water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of 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;
 - 18.7. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion. This plan must ensure to include drainage features that will be infilled and or excavated; and
 - 18.8. The final site layout map.

19. Once approved, 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.
20. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
21. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

22. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 29 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.
23. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
24. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. 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.
25. 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 GN R.982 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.
26. The holder of the authorisation may 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 GN R.982, 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

27. 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.
 - 27.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
 - 27.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
 - 27.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
 - 27.4. 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

28. 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 at Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za.
29. 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 at Directorcompliance@dffe.gov.za.
30. 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 GN R. 982, as amended.
31. 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.
32. 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.

33. 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

34. 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

35. 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

36. 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

37. Following the final design of the Doornhoek 1 PV facility, a final layout must be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment for review and approval prior to commencing with construction.
38. An additional pre-construction avifaunal survey must be performed over a minimum of 2-3 days. The survey must coincide with the peak wet season when most of the drainage lines and wetland features in the wider study region are inundated. The information obtained during this survey must be used to inform the EMPr submitted for approval.
39. The footprint of the development must be limited to the areas required for actual construction works and operational activities.

40. The EMPr must be amended to include a layout plan of the Doornhoek 1 PV facility, an Alien Invasive Plant Species Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan, and the additional pre-construction avifaunal survey.
41. The applicant must consult with the avifaunal specialist regarding the positions and designs of bird perching/nesting deterrents.
42. Suitable bird repelling structures must be considered to avoid collision of birds with the PV facility.
43. Monitoring of implementation of mitigation controls, along with reporting, must be undertaken at least quarterly throughout the construction phase (to include the peak wet season), and bi-annually during the operational phase. Monitoring, at the minimum, should consist of:
 - 43.1. Quarterly monitoring of the PV array area for evidence of PV collisions.
 - 43.2. Bi-annual monitoring of the resident avifaunal population, including priority species, to compare the impacts to the baseline avifaunal community description in this report.
44. The near-intact Endangered Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland must be treated as a “no-go” area and appropriately demarcated as such. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into this area.
45. The height of the PV panels must be restricted to 2.5m above ground level.
46. A row of trees around the Stone House complex must be planted as a windbreak (every 5m) to retain the local landscape character of the old farm complex.
47. The layout must be amended to remove all infrastructure from the visually sensitive areas and the 2km Secretarybird Nest Buffer as indicated in appendix D of the BAR dated June 2022.
48. A 150m buffer must be applied around the small hill (as displayed on Figure 17: Physiographic Rating Units identified within the defined study area in the Visual Impact Assessment) due to ridgeline prominence and should be retained as a “no-go” area. No vehicles, machinery, personnel, construction material, fuel, oil, bitumen or waste must be allowed into this area.
49. A 50m buffer must be applied around the PV boundaries (as displayed on Figure 17: Physiographic Rating Units identified within the defined study area in the Visual Impact Assessment). All existing trees within the 50m boundary buffer area must be retained, as well as the outer rows of the gum-tree windbreaks.
50. Thornveld trees surrounding the proposed PV sites must be retained for visual screening. Young thornveld trees that will be removed from the PV development area need to be relocated to the buffer area such that there are trees spaced every 20m along the boundary buffer.
51. A preconstruction walk-through of the approved development footprint must be undertaken to ensure that sensitive habitats and species are avoided where possible.

52. A Search and rescue plan must be developed for any TOPs or species of conservation concern that have the likelihood of occurring in the study area. This plan will need to be updated once the pre-construction walk-through referred to above has been completed.
53. A final walk-through to locate Species of Conservation Concern that can be trans-located or avoided must be undertaken with an experienced and qualified ecologist.
54. Permits from relevant authorities must be obtained for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or nationally protected species.
55. Should archaeologically sites or graves be exposed during construction work, it must immediately be reported to a heritage practitioner so that an investigation and evaluation of the finds can be made.
56. The ECO must monitor all substantial surface clearance operations and excavations into sedimentary rocks for fossil remains on an on-going basis during the construction phase.
57. 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.
58. 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

59. The recommendations of the EAP in the BAR dated June 2022 and the specialist studies attached must be adhered to. In the event of any conflicting mitigation measures and conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the specific condition of this Environmental Authorisation will take preference.
60. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 60.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 60.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 60.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.

61. 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: 06 September 2022

Splitting and re-issue date: 27/03/2023.



Ms Milicent 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 16 May 2022.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated June 2022.
- c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated June 2022.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr dated June 2022.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies submitted as part of the BAR dated June 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 stems from the provision of electricity to the national grid.
- c) The BAR dated June 2022 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the proposed project within the Klerksdorp Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ).
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated June 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 BAR dated June 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 information contained in the BAR dated June 2022 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.

- e) 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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, 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

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Ms. Millicent 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

Ms. Devinagie Bendeman

Deputy Director-General: Regulatory Compliance and Sector Monitoring

Date: 22 February 2023



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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~~ / DO NOT ACCEPT
appointment as Acting Chief Director:
Intergrated Environmental Authorisations
Signed:

Date: 27/02/2023