



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedsure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

Reference: 12/12/20/2178

Enquiries: Nyiko Ngoveni / Mmatlala Rabothata

Tel: 012 395 1694 /1768 Fax: 012 320 7539

E-mail: nngoveni@environment.gov.za / mrabothata@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Fax: 086 684 0547

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NEAR VREDENDAL, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Declaration of Interest submitted by you on 7 February 2011 for environmental authorisation for the abovementioned project. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010.

However, your application has been rejected. Kindly submit the required proof described in section 12 (2) (b) (i) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely

Mr Dumisani Mthembu

Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management (Acting)
Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Ms Hilda Bezuidenhout

Designation: Assistant Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 21/02/2011



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Dear Ms Thomas

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NEAR VREDENDAL, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Declaration of Interest submitted by you on 7 February 2011 for environmental authorisation for the abovementioned project. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2010.

The Department also confirms having received, on 23 February 2011, the required proof described in section 12 (2) (b) (i) of the EIA Regulations, 2010. The Application is accepted.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely

Ms Sibusisiwe Hlela
Chief Director: Environmental Impact Management (Acting)
Department of Environmental Affairs
Letter signed by: Ms Hilda Bezuidenhout
Designation: Assistant Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 09/03/2011



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NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0000180/2011

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2178

Enquiries: John Geeringh.

Telephone: 012 310 3491 **Fax:** 012 320 7539 **E-mail:** jgeeringh@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P O Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Fax No: 086 684 0547

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NORTHWEST OF VREDENDAL, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE (REFERENCE: 12/12/20/2178)

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (POSEIA) dated June 2011 and received by the Department on 17 June 2011 refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the POSEIA dated June 2011 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks identified in the POSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010. In addition to the specialist studies to be conducted, a study must be done to determine the land use potential of the area especially with regard to the agricultural potential of the site and the impact of the proposed development on this potential.

Please ensure that copies of the draft environmental impact assessment report (EIAR) is submitted to all relevant authorities for comment and that a list of these authorities and contact details are supplied to the Department with the draft EIAR. This includes but is not limited to Heritage Western Cape, the National Department of Agriculture, the Provincial Department of Environmental Affairs, CapeNature, the Department of Water Affairs and the local municipality. Proof of correspondence with the various interested and affected parties (IAPs) must be included in the final EIAR.

In addition, the following information is required for the EIAR:

- a) Details of various site alternatives within the broader study area.
- b) Details of the various design layout alternatives.

- c) Details of the structures to be installed, including numbers, types and height.
- d) Alternative route alignments of the connecting power line to Juno Substation.
- e) Details of the no-go option (not to implement) assessment.
- f) The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the photovoltaic plant and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
- g) The assessment of impacts as required by the comments received from authorities and the recommendations of the specialists for additional studies.
- h) The EIAR should include information on the following:
 - Environmental costs vs benefits of the photovoltaic plant;
 - Proof that the electrical connection to the Eskom grid is possible; and
 - Economic viability of the facility.
- i) Detailed information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity supply. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained from the supplying authority?
- j) A construction and operational phase Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) which includes detailed mitigation and monitoring measures.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in regulation 56(3a-3h).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

Please ensure that the final EIAR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and that the detailed maps and figures included in the final EIAR illustrate the different proposed site alternatives and power line alignments.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit at least two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD) and five (5) copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department as per regulation 34(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please also find attached information that should be used in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. This will enable the Department to speedily review the EIAR and make a decision on the application.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Ishaan Abader

Deputy Director-General: Environmental Quality and Protection

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter signed by: Mr Dumisani Mthembu

Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 2/08/2011

CC: Mr Ian McGregor
Mr C Musemburi

INCA
DEA&DP

Fax: 011 684 1079
Fax: 021 483 4372

A. EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES

1. General site information

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site.
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- Solar plant design specifications including:
 - Type of technology
 - Structure height
 - Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)
 - Structure orientation
 - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
 - Generation capacity
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

2. Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
 - Current use of land on the site including:
 - Buildings and other structures
 - Agricultural fields
 - Grazing areas
 - Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
 - Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
 - Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
 - Cultural historical sites and elements
 - Rivers, streams and water courses
 - Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
 - Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
 - High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 - Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
 - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land
 - 1km from residential areas
 - Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:

- Less than 8% slope
- between 8% and 12% slope
- between 12% and 14% slope
- steeper than 18 % slope
- A map/layer that indicate locations of birds and bats including roosting and foraging areas (specialist input required)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
 - Positions of solar facilities
 - Foundation footprint
 - Permanent laydown area footprint
 - Construction period laydown footprint
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible)
 - River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
 - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)
 - Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as Eskom)
 - Cut and fill areas along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill
 - Borrow pits
 - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)
 - Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of applications.

3. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:
 - roads including their types (tared or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
 - Railway lines and stations
 - Industrial areas
 - Harbours and airports
 - Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
 - Pipelines
 - Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases
 - A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
 - Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
 - Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas
 - Agricultural fields
 - Irrigated areas
 - An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams

4. Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mrs. Anneliza Collett
Directorate: Land Use & Soil Management
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries
Tel: 012 - 319 7508
Fax: 012 - 329 5938
e-mail: AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za
www.agis.agric.za

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom (Mr Kevin Leask or Mr Ronald Marais (011) 8008111) regarding grid connectivity and capacity.

B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following:
 - Identification of the soil forms present on site
 - The size of the area where a particular soil form is found
 - GPS readings of soil survey points
 - The depth of the soil at each survey point
 - Soil colour
 - Limiting factors
 - Clay content
 - Slope of the site
 - A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area,
 - Size of the site
- Exact locality of the site
- Current activities on the site, developments, buildings
- Surrounding developments / land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site
- Access routes and the condition thereof
- Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment)
- Possible land use options for the site
- Water availability, source and quality (if available)
- Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice
- Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area
- A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map.