



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: 14/16/12/3/3/1/2285

Enquiries: Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

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Mr Claude Bosman
Grootfontein PV 2 (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 3253
PINEGOWRIE
Johannesburg
2123

Telephone Number: (082) 331 4098
Email Address: claude@veroniva.co.za

PER MAIL / EMAIL

Dear Mr Bosman

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT THE GROOTFONTEIN PV2 175MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR TOUWS RIVER, WITZENBERG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WESTERN 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 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the decision, of the 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.

MS

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@environment.gov.za;

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

By post: Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Please note that in terms of Section 43(7) of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, the lodging of an appeal will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged, you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal is finalised.

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 26/11/2021

cc:	Mr Paul Lochner	CSIR	Email: PLochner@csir.co.za / RAbed@csir.co.za
	Mr Zaahir Toefy	DEA&DP	Email: zaahir.toefy@westerncape.gov.za
	Mr David Nasson	Witzenberg Local Municipality	Email: david@witzenberg.gov.za





forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Environmental Authorisation

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

Development of Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Grootfontein PV2 175MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility and associated infrastructure, near Touws River, Witzenberg Local Municipality, Western Cape Province

Cape Winelands District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/2285
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	Grootfontein PV 2 (Pty) Ltd
Location of activity:	Remainder of Grootfontein Farm Number 149 (Portion 0); Portion 1 of Hoek Doornen Farm Number 172 (Portion 1); Remainder of Witte Wall Farm Number 171 (Portion 0); Remainder of Platfontein 240 (Portion 0); and Remainder of Die Brak 241 (Portion 0), Ward 12, Witzenberg Local Municipality, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

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 –

GROOTFONTEIN PV 2 (PTY) LTD

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

with the following contact details –

Mr Claude Bosman

Grootfontein PV 2 (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 3253

PINEGOWRIE

Johannesburg

2123

Cell: (082) 331 4098

E-mail: claude@veroniva.co.za

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></p> <p><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>The project will entail the construction and installation of one on-site substation and/or switching station at the Grootfontein PV 2 Facility. The on-site substation referred to here is specifically for the section that will potentially be managed by Eskom i.e. this includes the high voltage infrastructure extending from the Point of Connection (i.e. Eskom's section of the proposed on-site substation, planned to be 132kV) up to the line bay at the Eskom Kappa Substation.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project will include the construction of a power line of approximately 132 KV, routed from the on-site substation at the Grootfontein PV 2 Facility to the Eskom Kappa Substation. The estimated and approximate length of the Grootfontein PV 2 Power Line is approximately 23km. This constitutes facilities for the distribution and transmission of electricity. The project will take place outside of an urban area, approximately 90km from Ceres and 70km from Touws River, within the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Western Cape Province.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Item 12 (ii):</u></p> <p><i>"The development of:</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs</i> <i>a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>b) in front of a development setback; or</i></p>	<p>The project will take place outside of an urban area, approximately 90km from Ceres and 70km from Touws River, within the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Western Cape Province. The project will entail the construction of building infrastructure and structures for the on-site substation (extending from the Point of Connection), as well as the</p>

<p><i>c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;..."</i></p>	<p>power line (including pylons and associated infrastructure) and service road. The infrastructure and structures are expected to exceed a footprint of 100 m² and some may occur within small drainage features and 32 m of the watercourses. The Groot Rivier, Klein Droelaagte and Droelaagte Rivers, as well as a small unnamed river system, run through some of the affected farm portions.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 19</u> <i>"The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;..."</i></p>	<p>The project may entail the excavation, removal and moving of more than 10 m³ of soil, sand, pebbles or rock from nearby watercourses on site. The project may also entail the infilling of more than 10 m³ of material into the nearby watercourses. The Groot Rivier, Klein Droelaagte and Droelaagte Rivers, as well as a small unnamed river system, run through some of the affected farm portions. Due to the width of the Groot Rivier, pylon bases will need to be constructed within the dry river bed and banks of the Groot Rivier.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 27:</u> <i>"The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation..."</i></p>	<p>The project will entail the construction of an on-site substation and/or switching substation, with an estimated footprint of 2 ha, at the Grootfontein PV 2 Facility. This will constitute infrastructure with a physical footprint of more than 1 ha that will require clearance of indigenous vegetation. The on-site substation referred to here is specifically for the section that will potentially be managed by Eskom i.e. this includes the high voltage infrastructure extending from the Point of Connection (i.e. Eskom's section of the proposed on-site substation, planned to be 132 kV) up to the line bay at the Eskom Kappa Substation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 28(ii):</u></p>	

<p><i>"Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes, or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</i></p> <p><i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;-..."</i></p>	<p>The project will take place outside of an urban area, approximately 90km from Ceres and 70km from Touws River, within the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Western Cape Province. In addition, the Witte Wall Farm currently has game on it. The project will entail the construction of an on-site substation and/or switching substation, with an estimated footprint of 2 ha.</p> <p>This will constitute infrastructure with a physical footprint of more than 1 ha. The on-site substation referred to here is specifically for the section that will potentially be managed by Eskom i.e. this includes the high voltage infrastructure extending from the Point of Connection (i.e. Eskom's section of the proposed on-site substation, planned to be 132 kV) up to the line bay at the Eskom Kappa Substation.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Item 47:</u></p> <p><i>"The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase."</i></p>	<p>The project will also include associated electrical infrastructure at the Eskom Kappa Substation (including but not limited to feeders, Busbars, new transformer bay (up to 500 MVA) and extension to the platform at the Eskom Kappa Substation).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 4: (i)(ii) (aa):</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>(i) Western Cape</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Areas outside urban areas;</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas containing indigenous vegetation;..."</i></p>	<p>The project will take place outside of an urban area, approximately 90km from Ceres and 70km from Touws River, within the Witzenberg Local Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Western Cape Province. The project will take place on land containing indigenous vegetation. A gravel service road will be constructed below the power line, which will extend approximately 4 m wide.</p>

as described in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (BAR) dated February 2021 at:

Farm Name, Portions and 21 Digit SG Code:

Farm name/s, Portions and number/s	SG 21 Code
Remainder of Grootfontein Farm Number 149 (Portion 0);	C01900000000014900000
Portion 1 of Hoek Doornen Farm Number 172 (Portion 1);	C01900000000017200001
Remainder of Witte Wall Farm Number 171 (Portion 0);	C01900000000017100000
Remainder of Platfontein 240 (Portion 0); and	C01900000000024000000
Remainder of Die Brak 241 (Portion 0).	C01900000000024100000

Coordinates for the development

Coordinates of the power line and access road	Latitude	Longitude
Start	32° 58' 3.630" S	19° 56' 27.839" E
Middle	33° 1' 27.313" S	19° 59' 54.181" E
End	33° 6' 37.980" S	20° 0' 45.965" E
Coordinates of the substation	Latitude	Latitude
On-site substation and/or a switching substation	32° 58' 3.630" S	19° 56' 27.839" E

- for the development of Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) to support the Grootfontein PV2 175MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility and associated infrastructure, near Touws River, Witzenberg Local Municipality, Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The project will consist of the following components:

- A 132 kV overhead power line, approximately 23km, to connect to the existing Eskom Kappa Substation located within an approved corridor of approximately 300 m wide. The power line will be constructed within an approximately 33 m wide servitude;
- A service road of approximately 4 m wide below the power line;
- Game fences along the power line route to fence off the servitude across the farm Witte Wall. Suitable fencing will be placed along the power line corridor on Die Brak;
- An on-site substation and/or a switching substation, with an estimated footprint of 2 ha and up to 10m in height, at the Grootfontein PV 2 Facility (this refers specifically to Eskom's section of the on-site substation, planned to be 132kV, which will potentially be transferred from the Independent Power Producer to Eskom). A lightning mast of up to 21 m will be installed within the substation yards; and
- Associated electrical infrastructure at the Eskom Kappa Substation (including but not limited to feeders, Busbars, new transformer bay (up to 500 MVA) and extension to the platform at the Eskom Kappa Substation).

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of Electrical Grid Infrastructure to support the Grootfontein PV2 175MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility and associated infrastructure, near Touws River, Witzenberg Local Municipality, Western Cape Province is approved within the approximately 300 m wide EGI corridor, 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 of the activity must be concluded, and the post construction monitoring requirements finalised, within five (05) years of the commencement of the activity on site.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. 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.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. 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

12. A final site layout plan for the power line (with micro-siting of the powerline route and pylon structures) and all mitigation measures as dictated by the final site layout plan, must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. Once approved, the final site layout plan must be appended to Part C of the generic EMPr for the 132 kV overhead power line, to connect to the existing Eskom Kappa Substation. The final site layout plan for the power line must indicate the following.
 - 12.1. The final delineation of the centreline of the power line within the approved 300m corridor;
 - 12.2. The specific position of the pylon structures and foundation footprints;
 - 12.3. All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - 12.4. Any sensitive environmental features that will be affected by the power line; and

- 12.5. All "no-go" and buffer areas.
13. A final site layout plan(s) for the substation must be submitted to the Department for approval prior to construction. The final site layout plan(s) must indicate Eskom's section of the onsite substations (i.e. distinguish Eskom's section from the Independent Power Producer's section), as well as the expanded section of the Eskom Kappa Substation. Once approved, the final site layout plan(s) must be appended to Part C of the generic EMPr for the substation.
14. The final site layout plans must be made available for comments to registered Interested and Affected Parties, and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments prior to submission of the final site layout plans to the Department for written approval.
15. The generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs) for the power line and substation, submitted as part of the BAR dated February 2021, are approved.
16. The EMPrs must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. They shall be seen as dynamic documents and shall be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development.
17. Changes to the approved EMPrs must be submitted in accordance to the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
18. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPrs, should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the BAR be discovered.

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

19. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 26 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
20. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
21. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
22. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated 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.

23. The holder of the authorisation must apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. The amendment process is prescribed in Regulation 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The holder of the authorisation must request comments on the proposed amendments to the impact management outcomes of the EMPr or amendments to the closure objectives of the closure plan from potentially interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, by using any of the methods provided for in the Act for a period of at least 30 days.

Monitoring

24. The holder of the authorisation must appoint an experienced Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations referred to in this environmental authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the approved EMPr.

- 24.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 24.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 24.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 24.4. The ECO must remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed and the site is ready for operation.

Recording and reporting to the Department

25. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
26. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
27. The frequency of auditing must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr. The frequency for the submission of the environmental audit reports to the Competent Authority must quarterly, taking into

account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

28. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
29. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMPr.
30. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

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

Operation of the activity

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

Site closure and decommissioning

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

Specific conditions

34. No activities, that require a water use authorisation, must be allowed to encroach into a water resource without a water use authorisation being in place from the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation.
35. Vegetation clearing must be limited to the required footprint for actual construction works.
36. A permit must be obtained from the relevant Department for the removal or destruction of indigenous, protected or endangered plant or animal species and a copy of such permit/s must be submitted to the Department for record keeping.
37. No exotic plants may be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area may be utilised.
38. If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g., remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, marine shell and charcoal/ash concentrations), unmarked human burials, fossils or other categories of heritage resources are uncovered during construction, work in the immediate area must be halted, Heritage Western Cape must be alerted immediately, and a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist (depending on the nature of the finds) must be contacted as soon as possible to inspect the findings.
39. 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.
40. 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

41. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
 - 41.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 41.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 41.3. where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
42. 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: 26/04/2021



Mr Sabelo Malaza

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 04 December 2020.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated February 2021.
- c) The comments received from the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (DEA&DP), Department of Water and Sanitation, Cape Nature, Department of Transport & Public Works, South African Civil Aviation Authority, Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), Heritage Western Cape (HWC), Eskom and other interested and affected parties (I&APs) as included in the BAR dated February 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the generic EMPs.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated February 2021 and as appears below:

Title	Prepared by	Date
Agriculture Compliance Statement	Johann Lanz	February 2021
Visual Impact Assessment	Quinton Lawson and Bernard Oberholzer	February 2021
Heritage Impact Assessment (Archaeology, Cultural Landscape and Palaeontology)	ASHA Consulting and Natura Viva cc	February 2021
Terrestrial Biodiversity and Species Impact Assessment	Sustainable Development Projects cc	February 2021
Aquatic Biodiversity and Species Impact Assessment	Sustainable Development Projects cc	February 2021
Riverine Rabbit	3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions	
Avifauna Impact assessment	Chris van Rooyen Consulting	February 2021

Socio-economic Assessment	Impact	Sandra Hill	February 2021
Geohydrology Assessment	Impact	Charl Muller and Julian Conrad	February 2021
Civil Aviation Site Sensitivity Verification		CSIR	February 2021
Traffic Impact Statement		Sturgeon Consulting	February 2021

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 project was adequately addressed. The EGI for the solar PV facility would help to address the need for increased electricity supply (on a national level), while also providing advanced skills transfer and training to the local communities and creating contractual and permanent employment, and economic spinoffs, in the area. The development of solar energy and associated EGI is important for South Africa to reduce its overall environmental footprint from coal power generation (including externality costs), and thereby to steer the country on a pathway towards sustainability. On a municipal planning level, the project supports the objectives of the Witzenberg Local Municipality's IDP (2017-2022) [Amended IDP (2020 – 2021)] which identifies renewable energy as a key economic sector. The Witzenberg Local Municipality IDP promotes the creation of an enabling environment to attract investment and support local economy. The Witzenberg Local Municipality's IDP and SDF (2020) states that any renewable energy developments in the municipal area should preferably be located inside of the Komsberg Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ 2). The project is located within the boundary of the Komsberg REDZ, and is therefore in line with the IDP and SDF of the Witzenberg Local Municipality.
- c) The BAR dated February 2021 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- d) The location of the activity.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated February 2021 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.

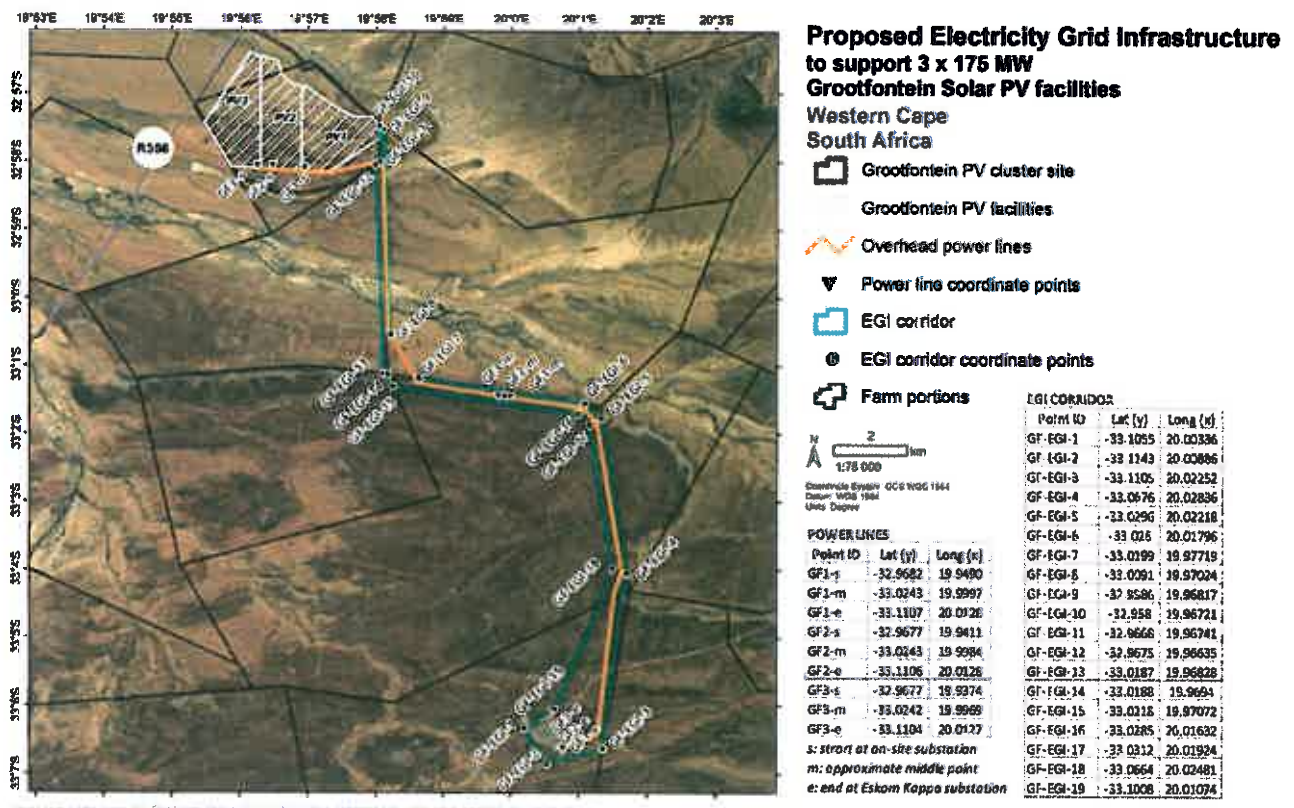
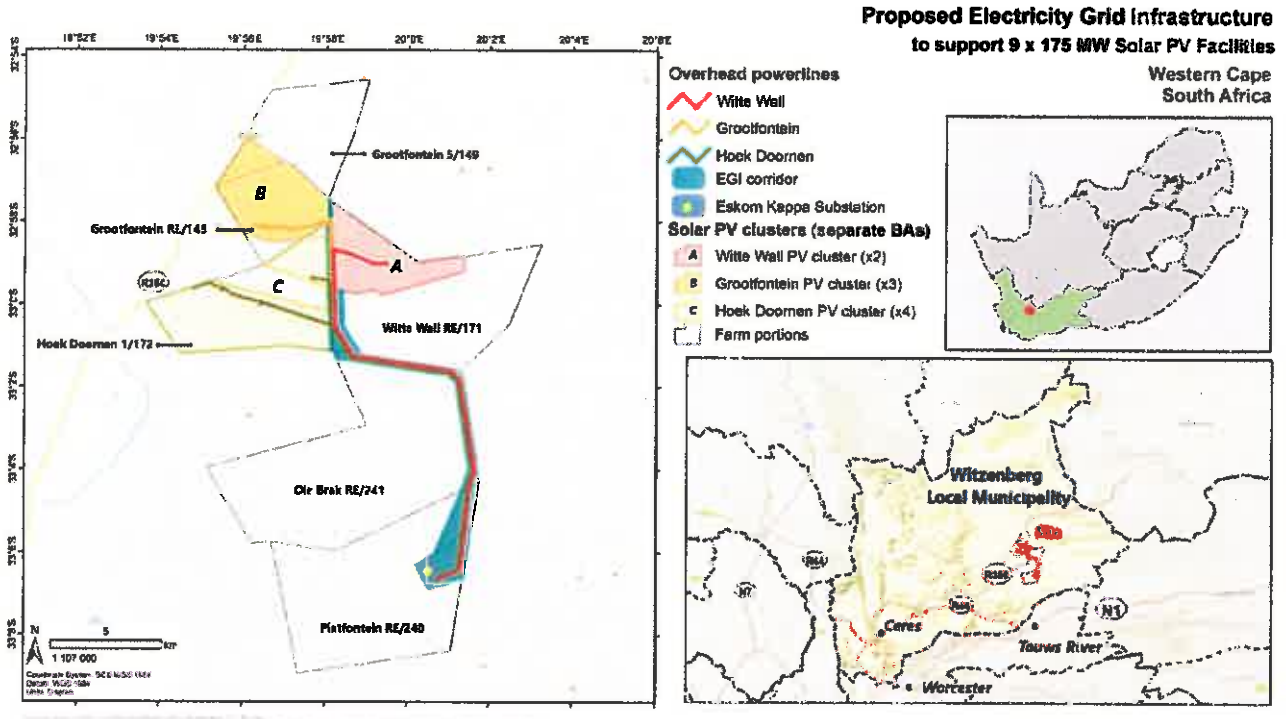
3. Findings

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 February 2021 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 February 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- e) Mitigation measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EMPs 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.

Annexure 2: Grootfontein PV 2 EGI Locality Map and Coordinates



MJS