

28 January 2022

Dear Interested and Affected Party

NOTIFICATION: ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION GRANTED FOR THE PROPOSED SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY (SKA) FIBRE OPTIC CABLE BETWEEN BEAUFORT WEST AND CARNARVON, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCES – SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

Environmental Authorisation Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2419

Water Use General Authorisation Reference Number: WU18079.

Attachments:

- Environmental Authorisation 14-12-16-3-3-1-2419
- National Appeal Regulations ((GN R993, 8 December 2014, as amended in GN R205, 12 March 2015)

In terms of Regulation 4 (2) of the 2014 National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, as amended) (NEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (as amended), you are hereby notified that **the proposed Square Kilometre Array (SKA) fibre optic cable between Beaufort West and Carnarvon has been granted Environmental Authorisation (EA) by the Competent Authority (the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)).**

EA was granted on 25 January 2022 and is attached separately to this letter and email, and can also be requested from the undersigned. Page 3 of this letter contains the Reasons for Decision as an excerpt from the EA.

Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations published in Government Notice (GN) R993 on 8 December 2014, as amended in GN R205 on 12 March 2015, which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. These regulations have been attached separately to this correspondence.

28 Januarie 2022

Geagte Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Party

KENNISGEWING: OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING GOEDGEKEUR VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE "SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY" (SKA) OPTIESE VESEL KABEL TUSSEN BEAUFORT WES EN CARNARVON, IN DIE WESKAAP EN NOORDKAAP PROVINSIES – INDIENING VAN DIE FINALE BASIESE ASSESSERING VERSLAG

Omgewingsmagtiging Verwysings Nommer: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2419

Watervreëmagtiging Verwysings Nommer: WU18079.

Aanhangsels:

- Environmental Authorisation 14-12-16-3-3-1-2419
- National Appeal Regulations ((GN R993, 8 December 2014, as amended in GN R205, 12 March 2015)

In terme van Regulasie 4 (2) van die "National Environmental Management Act" (NEMA, 107 van 1998, soos gewysig) "Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulasies (2014, soos gewysig), word u hiermee in kennis gestel dat **die voorgestelde Square Kilometre Array" (SKA) optiese vessel kabel tussen Beaufort West en Carnarvon Omgewingsmagtiging vanaf die Bevoegde Owerheid, die Departement van Omgewingsake / "Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment" (DFFE), ontvang het.**

Omgewingsmagtiging is toegestaan op 25 Januarie 2022 en is 'n aparte aanhangsel to hierdie brief en epos, of kan aangevra word by die ondergetekende. Bladsy 3 van hierdie brief bevat die Redes vir Beslissing ("Reasons for Decision") as uittreksel van die Omgewingsmagtiging.

U aandag word gevestig op Hoofstuk 2 van die "National Appeal Regulations" gepubliseer in Kennisgewing R993 op 8 Desember 2014, soos gewysig in Kennisgewing R205 op 12 Maart 2015, wat die appél prosedure voorskryf. Die regulasies is aangeheg vir u inligting.

Should you wish to appeal any aspect of the decision to grant EA, an appeal must be submitted to the Appeal Administrator by you (the Appellant), and a copy thereof must be submitted to the Applicant, any registered I&AP and any Organ of State that has interest in the matter, within **20 (twenty) days** from the date that the notification of the decision was sent to the registered I&APs. **Therefore, the appeal period extends to 20 February 2022.**

Appeals must be submitted in writing and in the prescribed form (obtainable from the Appeal Administrator) to:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of the National DFFE.
at the below mentioned addresses:
By Email: appeals@dfre.gov.za
By Hand: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083
By Post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001.

Visit the Department's website at https://www.dfre.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations to obtain the prescribed appeal form and for guidance on the submission of appeals. Alternatively, a copy of the documents can be requested via e-mail from appeals@dfre.gov.za.

Should you have any queries or require additional information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned using the contact details provided above.

Kind regards,



Luanita Snyman-Van der Walt (Pr.Sci.Nat. 400128/16)
Project Manager and EAP | Projekbestuurder en EAP
CSIR | WNNR Environmental Management Services

Indien u enige aspek van die beslissing om Omgewingsmagtiging toe te staan, wil appéleer, moet u (die Appellant) 'n appél aan die Appél Administrateur ingehandig, en kopieë verskaf aan die Aansoeker, en enige registreerde Belanghebbende en Geaffekteerde Partye (B&GPs), staatsorganisasies en ander belanghebbendes binne 20 (twintig) dae vanaf die datum wat hierdie kennisgewing aan geregistreerde B&GPs gestuur is. **Daarom is die sluitingsdatum vir die appél periode 20 Februarie 2022.**

Appéle moet in skrif en in die voorgeskryfde formaat (verkrygbaar by die Appél Administrateur) ingehandig word aan:

The Director: Appeals and Legal Review of the National DFFE.
by die voldende adresse:
By Email: appeals@dfre.gov.za
By Hand: Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083
By Post: Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001.

Besoek die Departement se webtuiste by https://www.dfre.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations om die voorgesryfde appél form en leiding rakende die appél prosedure af te laai. Die dokumentasie kan ook per epos versoek word by appeals@dfre.gov.za.

Indien u enige navrae het of addisionele inligting benodig, kontak gerus die ondergetekende by die bogenoemde besonderhede.

Vriendelike groete,

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 25 August 2021.
- b) The information contained in the BAR dated November 2021.
- c) The comments received from interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated November 2021.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR and the EMPr dated November 2021.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the BAR dated November 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 BAR dated November 2021 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- c) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated November 2021 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- d) 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 November 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 November 2021 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- d) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.

- e) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR dated November 2021 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.

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