

Dale Holder

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 19 May 2023 12:55
To: Dale Holder
Subject: FW: 2023-05-0021
Attachments: We found suspicious links; 2023-05-0021 DB Output.pdf; PIX796.01 Request for pre-application meeting Kareekloof Energy.docx

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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From: EIA Applications
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2023 12:45 PM
To: Matlhodi Mogorosi <MMOGOROSI@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Thabile Sangweni <TSANGWENI@dffe.gov.za>; Sindiswa Dlomo <SDLOMO@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: 2023-05-0021

Dear Matlhodi

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;
Reference Number: 2023-05-0021;
Date Received: 17/05/2023;
Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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From: Dale Holder <dale@cape-eaprac.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 4:23 PM

To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: Request for Pre Application Meeting - Proposed Kareekloof Energy PV Project.

Dear EIA Applications.

Kindly find attached request for Pre-Application meeting for the Proposed Kareekloof Energy PV Project situated on Portion 1 of the Farm BASBERG 88 and Portions 11, 16 & 17 of the farm KAREEKLOOF 85, near De Aar in the Northern Cape Province.

Kind regards/Vriendelike groete

Dale Holder

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

Cape EAPrac

NDip Nat.Con

EAPASA Reg. 2019/301

T: 044 874 0365

17 Progress Street, George

PO Box 2070, George 6530



Cape EAPrac



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Please Note: When registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), you consent to the lawful processing of personal information for the intended purposes, as described by the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013). Your information will be used for this project, including the initial application as well as subsequent related appeals, amendments or audits, or any future project where you are identified as an I&AP. You also agree that by submitting comment to inform this process, your contact details will, where required by a public body, be reflected in our regulated reports that must be compiled and submitted to the general public, registered stakeholders, organs of state as well as the competent authority for consideration and decision-making.

Kindly view our Privacy Statement for more information.

Dale Holder

From: Dale Holder
Sent: Monday, 09 October 2023 14:17
To: EIA Applications
Subject: RE: Submission of Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Kareekloof Solar PV and BESS Development
Attachments: Document control form.docx

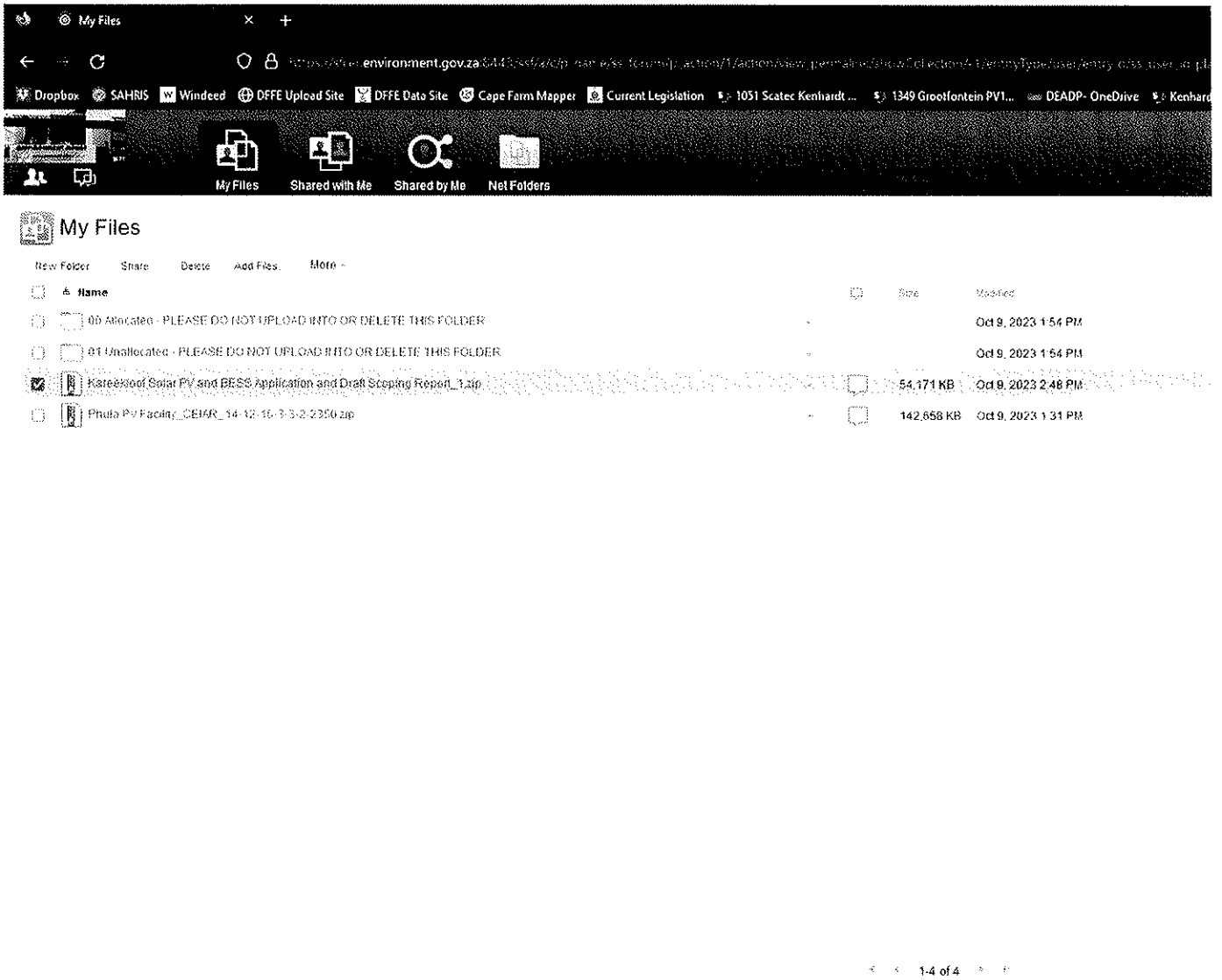
Dear EIA Applications

Please find the attached screenshot and Document Control form for the submission of an Application and Draft Scoping Report for the proposed Kareekloof Solar PV and BESS development proposed on Portion 1 of the farm Bas Berg 88, Portion 2 of the farm Koppy Alleen 83 and Portions 6, 11, 16 & 17 of the farm Karee Kloof 85 Near De Aar in the Northern Cape.

I have included the minutes of the pre-application meeting that were not included in the previous documentation.

The Department Reference is : 2023-05-0021 (Pre-Application Reference)

The allocated Case Officer is: Ms Mathlodi Mogorosi



Kind regards/Vriendelike groete

Dale Holder

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

Cape EAPrac

NDip Nat.Con

EAPASA Reg. 2019/301

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dffe.gov.za>

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 12:56 PM

To: Dale Holder <dale@cape-eaprac.co.za>

Subject: RE: Submission of Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Kareekloof Solar PV and BESS Development

Dear Dale.

Please note that we cannot consider your application as it does not comply with the rules for submission to the Department.

There are no minutes of a pre-application meeting or **email** confirmation (from the relevant allocated official stating that no meeting is necessary) attached. Please obtain approval from your allocated official. If this has already been obtained, please attach it to the application form and resubmit your application.

The files have been removed from the system.

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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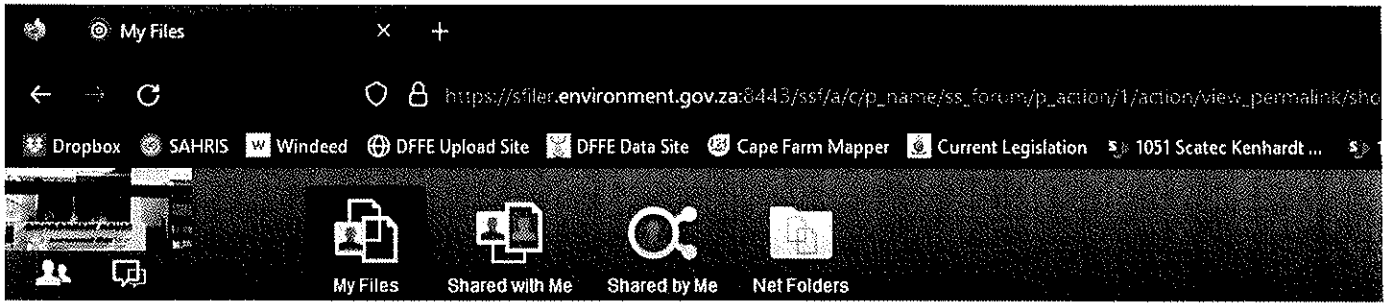
From: Dale Holder <dale@cape-eaprac.co.za>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 1:36 PM
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@dfpe.gov.za>
Subject: Submission of Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for the Proposed Kareekloof Solar PV and BESS Development

Dear EIA Applications

Please find the attached screenshot and Document Control form for the submission of an Application and Draft Scoping Report for the proposed Kareekloof Solar PV and BESS development proposed on Portion 1 of the farm Bas Berg 88, Portion 2 of the farm Koppie Alleen 83 and Portions 6, 11, 16 & 17 of the farm Karee Kloof 85 Near De Aar in the Northern Cape.

The Department Reference is : 2023-05-0021 (Pre-Application Reference)

The allocated Case Officer is: Ms Mathlodi Mogorosi



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<input type="checkbox"/>	00 Allocated - PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD INTO OR DELETE THIS FOLDER	-	
<input type="checkbox"/>	01 Unallocated - PLEASE DO NOT UPLOAD INTO OR DELETE THIS FOLDER	-	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application Form for EA and DBAR- Mountain Bike Track.zip	-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kareekloof Solar PV and BESS Application and Draft Scoping Report.zip	-	



Kind regards/Vriendelike groete

Dale Holder

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTITIONER

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T: 044 874 0365

17 Progress Street, George





Reduce Reuse Recycle

In the interest of resource conservation please reconsider printing this email.

Please Note: When registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), you consent to the lawful processing of personal information for the intended purposes, as described by the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 4 of 2013). Your information will be used for this project, including the initial application as well as subsequent related appeals, amendments or audits, or any future project where you are identified as an I&AP. You also agree that by submitting comment to inform this process, your contact details will, where required by a public body, be reflected in our regulated reports that must be compiled and submitted to the general public, registered stakeholders, organs of state as well as the competent authority for consideration and decision-making.

Kindly view our [Privacy Statement](#) for more information.

Dale Holder

From: Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 09 October 2023 14:35
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Mathodi Mogorosi; Salome Mambane; EIAAdmin
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2448

Dear Dale

14/12/16/3/3/2/2448

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED PV, AND BESS ENERGY FACILITY KAREEKLOOF SOLAR PV FACILITY AND BESS LOCATED ON THE PORTION 1 OF THE FARM BAS BERG 88, PORTION 2 OF THE FARM KOPPY ALLEEN 83 AND PORTIONS 6, 11, 16 & 17 OF THE FARM KAREE KLOOF 85 SITUATED NEAR DE AAR IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 09 October 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2448

Enquiries: Ms. Mathodi Mogorosi

Telephone: (012) 399 9388 **E-mail:** MMogorosi@dffe.gov.za

Mr Dale Holder
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 2070
GEORGE
6530

Telephone Number: (044) 874 0365
Email Address: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UP TO 900MW KAREEKLOOF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY, A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM AND OTHER ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR DE AAR, WITHIN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated September 2023 and received by the Department on 09 October 2023, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the Final Scoping Report:

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific, and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.
- (ii) The project description must be expanded to include thresholds, footprints, and capacities of the associated infrastructure, particularly those that trigger a listed activity.
- (iii) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.
- (iv) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
sks

- Positions of the proposed facility, the BESS, as well as all other associated infrastructure;
 - Permanent and temporary laydown area footprints;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed); and
 - All existing infrastructure on the site.
- (ii) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map which indicates the following:
- The location of sensitive environmental features on-site e.g., CBAs, NPEAS focus areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines, etc. that will be affected;
 - Buffer areas; and,
 - All "no-go" areas.
- (iii) A cumulative map showing the proposed development in relation to similar neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure must also be provided.
- (iv) Please note that Google Maps will not be accepted.

(c) Public Participation Process

- (i) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the Final SR.
- (ii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts made to obtain comments.
- (iii) The final Scoping Report must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.
- (iv) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulations 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (v) Proof of the newspaper advertisement must be included in the final SR.
- (vi) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments received (pre- (if any) and post-submission of draft SR) for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

(d) Specialist Assessments

- (i) Please note that the protocols require certain specialists to be SACNASP registered. As such, the Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must also indicate the scientific organisation registration/member number and status of registration/membership for each specialist.
- (ii) It is noted that Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) reports were included for only the themes that were rated as High – Very High by the screening tool report. Please note that site sensitivity verification must be undertaken by the specialist or EAP for all the themes. As such, you are requested to ensure that the final SR includes detailed SSV (these can also be consolidated into one report) for all the Medium to Low-rated themes as well. The SSV must categorically state whether or not the EAP or specialist confirms or disputes the finding of the screening tool and on what basis. The findings of the site sensitivity verification reports will assist the department in the review of the final SR and also will aid the department when deciding on whether or not the final SR can be accepted.
- (iii) In addition, you are required to include, as part of the final SR, a table summarising the specialist studies required by the Screening Tool and the sensitivity rating of the Screening Tool (very high, high, medium, low), a column indicating the sensitivity of the site after the EAP/Specialist conducted the Site Sensitivity Verification Assessment (a dispute or confirmation of the finding by the Screening Tool), and a column indicating whether these studies will be conducted or if a

compliance statement or motivation will be submitted during the EIAr phase, as per the requirements of the protocols.

(e) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) Should there be any other similar developments proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures, and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority".

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Sabelo Malaza

**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo

Designation: Deputy Director: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 06/11/2023

cc:	Marshall Mabin	Kareekloof Energy (Pty) Ltd	Email: marshall@merchant.energy
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Dale Holder

From: Lydia Kutu <LKutu@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 November 2023 13:23
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Matlhodi Mogorosi; EIAdmin; Salome Mambane
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2448
Attachments: Closure 2023-2024.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 900MW KAREEKLOOF SOLAR PV FACILITY, A BESS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 20 November 2023. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: (012) 399 9370
Email: LKutu@dffe.gov.za

To God be the Glory!!!



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2448

Enquiries: Matlhodi Mogorosi

Telephone: (012) 399 9388 **E-mail:** MMogorosi@dfffe.gov.za

Mr Dale Holder
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 2070
GEORGE
6530

Telephone Number: (044) 874 0365
Email Address: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UP TO 900MW KAREEKLOOF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AND A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), AND OTHER ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED ON THE PORTION 1 OF THE FARM BAS BERG 88, PORTION 2 OF THE FARM KOPPY ALLEEN 83 AND PORTIONS 6, 11, 16 & 17 OF THE FARM KAREE KLOOF 85 NEAR DE AAR, WITHIN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated November 2023 and received by the Department on 20 November 2023, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated November 2023 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process per the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAr:

(a) **Listed Activities**

- (i) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- (ii) The listed activities represented in the EIAr, and the application form must be the same and correct.
- (iii) Please also ensure that the potential impacts on the affected Critical Biodiversity Areas indicated in Listing Notice 3 are fully assessed in the EIAr.

JS

(b) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to neighbouring property owners, the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development & Land Reform, Department of Water and Sanitation, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley ka Seme District Municipality, South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Northern Cape Heritage Resources Authority, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), Department of Transport and Public Works, The South African Square Kilometre Array, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: Biodiversity & Conservation Directorate, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Eskom, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Birdlife Africa.
- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR and draft EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAr. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- (iii) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments (pre and post-submission of the draft EIAr) received for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs comments.

(c) Alternatives

- (i) Please describe each of the preferred alternative types and provide a detailed motivation on why it is preferred.
- (ii) If no alternative locations for the activity were investigated, please motivate for not considering such.

(d) Project Scope and Coordinates

- (i) The EIAr must provide the following:
 - Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed Kareekloof Solar Photovoltaic Facility, as well as the BESS, and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - Clear description of all associated infrastructure (locations, lengths, widths and/or capacities). This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Ancillary infrastructure; and
 - Electrical and service infrastructure forming part of the application.
- (ii) The EIAr must provide the corner coordinate points for the proposed development site, as well as the start, middle and end point of any linear activities.

(e) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) A copy of the final preferred layout map. 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:
 - Permanent laydown area 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);

- Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, streams and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on-site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - Location of access and service roads;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- (ii) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmentally sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure.
- (iii) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(f) Specialist assessments

- (i) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
- (ii) Should the specialist definition of a 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
- (iii) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
- (iv) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- (v) The Department's screening tool identified the requirement for a geotechnical and hydrology assessment. The final SR does not indicate if these assessments will be provided in the EIAR. Please ensure that these assessments are included in the EIAR. Alternatively, sufficient motivation must be provided for the assessment not being undertaken, including the site sensitivity verification required by the Protocols.

(g) Cumulative Assessment

- (i) Regarding cumulative impacts:
- Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - A detailed process flow must be provided to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement must be provided on whether the proposed development must proceed.

(h) General

- (i) The EIAR must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.

- (ii) Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies must be indicated.
- (iii) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
- (iv) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e., all farm portions where the access road, solar PV modules and associated infrastructure are to be located.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo

Designation: Deputy Director: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 13/12/2023

cc:	Marshall Mabin	Kareekloof Energy (Pty) Ltd	Email: marshall@merchant.energy
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Dale Holder

From: Salome Mambane <SMAMBANE@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 18 March 2024 11:48
To: Dale Holder
Cc: EIAAdmin; Matlhodi Mogorosi
Subject: FW: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2448

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PV, AND BESS ENERGY FACILITY KAREEKLOOF SOLAR PV FACILITY AND BESS LOCATED ON THE PORTION 1 OF THE FARM BAS BERG 88, PORTION 2 OF THE FARM KOPPY ALLEEN 83 AND PORTIONS 6, 11, 16 & 17 OF THE FARM KAREE KLOOF 85 SITUATED NEAR DE AAR IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the abovementioned project on 15 March 2024. You have submitted these documents to comply with the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Salome Mambane
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
Priority Infrastructure Developments
Tel: 012 399 9385
Cell: 063 684 5431
Email: SMambane@dffe.gov.za



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2448

Enquiries: Ms. Mathodi Mogorosi

Telephone: (012) 399 9388 **E-mail:** MMogorosi@dffe.gov.za

Mr Dale Holder
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 2070
GEORGE
6530

Telephone Number: (044) 874 0365
Email Address: dale@cape-eaprac.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE UP TO 900MW KAREEKLOOF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AND A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), AND OTHER ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED ON PORTION 1 OF THE FARM BAS BERG 88, PORTION 2 OF THE FARM KOPPY ALLEEN 83 AND PORTIONS 6, 11, 16 & 17 OF THE FARM KAREE KLOOF 85 NEAR DE AAR, WITHIN THE EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 09 October 2023 and 15 March 2024, respectively, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

(a) Specific comments

- (i) Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the layout.
- (ii) Please ensure that all mitigation recommendations are in line with applicable and most recent guidelines.
- (iii) Please ensure that the final EIAR complies with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) A copy of the final preferred layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR, and 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.

(b) Listed Activities

- (i) The relevant authorities with jurisdiction in respect of geographically designated areas in terms of GN R. 985 (Listing Notice 3) Activities must be continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process. Written comments (or proof of consultation) must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. Please also ensure that the potential impacts on the Critical Biodiversity Areas that may be affected are fully assessed in the EIAR.

sls

- (ii) It is noted that in the description provided in the application form and the draft EIAR, for the triggers of Listed Activity 11 of Listing Notice 1, there are three (3) on-site substations with a capacity of up to 300MVA each. This must also be reflected in the project description in which the associated infrastructure is listed, in both the application form and the EIAR. Further to this, a determination must be made if the proposed on-site substations do not trigger Listed Activity 9 of Listing Notice 2. If they do trigger, the application form and the EIAR must be amended accordingly.
- (iii) In the description for Listed Activity 12 that you have applied for, it is stated that "*Some of the project infrastructure, such as internal cabling may be routed within 32m of the Aquatic features identified by the aquatic specialist. The relevance of this activity will be determined in the Environmental Impact Reporting phase after layouts are finalised and assessments completed.*" Kindly ensure that the relevance of this activity is reflected in the final EIAR. Furthermore, the type of infrastructure together with the threshold/footprint to be developed with the overall project must be included in the description in both the application form and final EIAR. The same information is required for Listed Activity 48 of Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (iv) Kindly expand the description provided of the trigger for Listed Activity 14 of Listing Notice 1 to include the threshold/capacity of the BESS proposed. The same applies to Activity 4 of Listing Notice 2.
- (v) The activity description provided for Listed Activity 18 of Listing Notice 3 must be expanded to include the length and width of the main and internal access roads.
- (vi) The application form must be amended accordingly to reflect the changes mentioned in the above paragraphs and must be signed by the applicant.

(c) Public Participation Process

- (i) The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report dated 13 December 2023. Please ensure that the Department's comments are addressed in the report as well as in the comments and response table.
- (ii) Please ensure that the final EIAR includes proof that the key stakeholders received written notification of the proposed activity, as well as of the resubmission of the application and the draft EIAR. Comments made by interested and affected parties (I&APs) must be comprehensively captured and responded to clearly and fully in the comments and response report.

(d) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) There are three on-site substations proposed for the up to 900MW PV solar facility. However, only one Generic EMPr has been attached as part of the draft EIAR. It is unclear if the single generic EMPr is intended to include all three on-site substations.
- (ii) Kindly ensure that the Generic EMPr(s) for the three 300MVA on-site substations are **signed** (sub-section 3) and **dated**.
- (iii) It is further noted that under **Part B: Section 2** of the Generic EMPr which requires "*site-specific information and declaration*" has not been completed. Kindly note that this section must be completed and included in the final EIAR. Furthermore, should the site contain no specific environmental sensitivities or attributes required under Part C of the Generic EMPr, kindly ensure to make note of such in the completed Generic EMPr. It is imperative that the requirements of the Generic EMPr are fully complied with.
- (iv) Please also include in the Generic EMPr, the recommended frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and Generic EMPr (for the construction and post-construction monitoring phases), as well as the frequency for the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.
- (v) Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

General

Please ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -

(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, an EMPr, a closure plan in the case of a closure activity and where the application is a mining application, the plans, report, and calculations contemplated in the Financial Provisioning Regulations, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAr or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the documents, which changes or information was not contained in the original documents consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in subregulation (1)(a), and that the revised documents contemplated in subregulation 1(a) will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days".

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence before an Environmental Authorisation is granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Vusi Skosana

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

Signed by: Ms. Sindiswa Dlomo

Designation: Deputy Director: National Integrated Authorisation Projects

Date: 2024/04/19

cc:	Marshall Mabin	Kareekloof Energy (Pty) Ltd	Email: marshall@merchant.energy
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