



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: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2392

Enquiries: Ms Olivia Letlalo

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Ms Mercia Grimbeek
Mukondeleli Solar (RF) Pty Ltd
Suite 104, The Albion Springs Office Park
183 Main Road
Rondebosch
CAPE TOWN
7701

Cell phone Number: 078 299 3515
Email Address: Kyle.Swartz@enertraq.com
Mercia.Grimbeek@enertraq.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Grimbeek

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 300MW MUKONDELELI 1 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR THE TOWN OF SECUNDA, WITHIN THE GOVAN MBEKI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE MPUMALANGA 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 NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (the EIA Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within fourteen (14) days of the date of the decision as well as 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 stipulate 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 prescribes 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@dfre.gov.za


By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
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@dfre.gov.za

Yours faithfully



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

Date: 09/04/2024

cc	Ashlea Strong	WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: Ashlea.strong@wsp.com
	Sindisiwe Mbuyane	Mpumalanga (DARDL&EA)	Email: mbuyanesb@mpa.gov.za
	Cllr YT Nxoxono	Govan Mbeki Local Municipality	Email: nomkhosi.z@govanmbeki.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

The development of a 300MW Mukondeleli 1 Solar Photovoltaic Facility and associated infrastructure,
near the town of Secunda, within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province

Gert Sibande District Municipality

Application Register Number:	14/12/16/3/3/2/2392
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation	Mukondeleli Solar (RF) Pty Ltd
Location of activity:	Portion 0 of the Farm Knoppies No. 314, Portion 2 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 3 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 4 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 5 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 13 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, and Portion 9 of the Farm Knoppiesfontein No. 313, Near Secunda, within ward 5 of the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and Gert Sibande District Municipality in the Mpumalanga 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.

MS

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 –

Mukondeleli Solar (RF) Pty Ltd

with the following contact details –

Ms Mercia Grimbeek
Mukondeleli Solar (RF) Pty Ltd
Suite 104, The Albion Springs Office Park
183 Main Road
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CAPE TOWN
7701

Cell phone Number: 078 299 3515

Email Address: Kyle.Swartz@enertraq.com
Mercia.Grimbeek@enertraq.com



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

Activity number	Activity description
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 11(i):</u></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</i></p> <p><i>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is —</i></p> <p><i>(a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure,</i></p> <p><i>(b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length,</i></p> <p><i>(c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and (d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.</i></p>	<p>The substation will have a capacity of 132kV and there will be internal underground cables of 132kV. The distribution infrastructure is located outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 12(ii)(a)(c):</u></p> <p><i>The development of-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more,</i></p> <p><i>where such development occurs-</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse,</i></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>Mukondeleli 1 Solar PV Facility will require the development of several components of the facility within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. The components of the facility that will be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses, of the includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar panels: 4 000 000m² • Laydown areas: 62 000m² • O&M building: 10 600m² • IPP Substation: 21 000m² • Internal Roads: 4 800m²
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 14:</u></p> <p><i>The development and related operation of facilities and infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good, where such storage</i></p>	<p>The solar facility would erect temporary fuel (and lubricants) and powder cement storage facilities during the construction phase. The combined</p>

<p><i>occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.</i></p>	<p>storage capacity of all of the above facilities/infrastructure will exceed 80m³ but will be below 500m³. The following estimated maximum capacities of dangerous good will be stored on site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete Batching: ~149m³ • Fuel stores (Petrol and/or Diesel): ~250m³ • Paint, grease, transformer oils, construction chemicals, lubricants: ~100m³
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 19:</u></p> <p><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>Internal access roads and stormwater control infrastructure, as well as electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the facility will collectively require the excavation, infilling or removal of soil of 4 800m³ from delineated watercourses on site.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 24(ii):</u></p> <p><i>The development of a road –</i> <i>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13.5m, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8m.</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads required by the facility will be 10m wide, and 8km in length. Where required for turning circle/bypass areas, access or internal roads will be 20m to allow for larger component transport.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 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> <i>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare.</i></p>	<p>The facility is considered a commercial and/or industrial development and is located on several farm portions outside an urban area, used for agricultural purposes. The total area to be developed for the facility (buildable area) is approximately 600ha (i.e. greater than 1 hectare).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 30:</u></p> <p><i>Any process or activity identified in terms of section 53(1) of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).</i></p>	<p>The facility infrastructure is located within the Soweto Highveld Grassland (GM8) which is considered a Vulnerable ecosystem in terms of</p>

	<p>the NEMBA threatened ecosystems database. Therefore, the facility will result in vegetation clearance or disturbance of ecosystems confirmed to be listed in the National List of Ecosystems that are Threatened and in need of protection (as indicated in GNR 1002 of 9 December 2011). Due to the fact that these ecosystems are listed as threatened, various threatened or protected species will be found within the development area. The restricted activity of "cutting, chopping off, uprooting, damaging or destroying, any specimen" has been identified in terms of NEM:BA and is therefore applicable to the vegetation clearance that will be required to construct the development.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 48(i)(a)(c):</u></p> <p><i>The expansion of-</i></p> <p><i>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more, or</i></p> <p><i>(a) within a watercourse,</i></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>The facility will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure of 60 000m² beyond existing road or road reserves located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 1, Activity 56(ii):</u></p> <p><i>The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre-</i></p> <p><i>(ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres.</i></p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8 metres. The existing road are two track roads with an average width of 1.5m. Because the internal roads are required to be widened to 10m, the existing roads will be widened by 6.5m. The facility is located within a rural area.</p>

<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Activity 1:</u></p> <p><i>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 MW or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs,</i></p> <p><i>(a) within an urban area; or</i></p> <p><i>(b) on existing infrastructure.</i></p>	<p>The proposed project entails the construction and operation of a solar energy facility that will generate 300MW of electricity from a renewable resource (solar). The proposed project is located outside an urban area.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 2, Activity 15:</u></p> <p><i>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for,</i></p> <p><i>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</i></p>	<p>The project is located within the Soweto Highveld grassland - which is listed as Vulnerable, according to the NEMBA Threatened Ecosystems (2021). The clearance required for the facility will be approximately 410.16ha of indigenous vegetation for the solar field, substation, laydown areas, underground cables and internal access roads.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 4(f)(i) (ee):</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>f. Mpumalanga</i></p> <p><i>i. Outside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</i></p>	<p>Internal access roads required by the facility will be 10m wide, and 8km in length. Where required for turning circle/bypass areas, access or internal roads will be 20m to allow for larger component transport. Access roads are located within CBA Optimal (CBA 2). According to the MBSP Handbook, land-uses that may compromise the biodiversity objective and that are only permissible under certain conditions for CBA Optimal areas includes roads. The internal roads will traverse CBA Optimal areas. The CBAs identified are as per the MBSP formally adopted by the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in the Provincial Gazette No 2535 of 26 May 2023 (Provincial Gazette Notice 279 of 2023).</p>

Listing Notice 3, Activity 10(f)(i) (ee)(hh):

The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.

f. Mpumalanga

i. Outside urban areas:

(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans,

(hh). Areas within a watercourse or wetland, or within 100 metres of a watercourse or wetland; or

The facility will require storage and handling of dangerous goods, including fuel, cement and chemical storage onsite, that will be greater than 80m³ but not exceeding 500m³.

Furthermore, storage contemplated above will be located within 100m of a watercourse or wetland and will require vegetation clearance or disturbance within CBA (CBA Optimal). The CBAs identified are as per the MBSP formally adopted by the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in the Provincial Gazette No 2535 of 26 May 2023 (Provincial Gazette Notice 279 of 2023).

The following estimated maximum capacities of dangerous good will be stored on site:

- Concrete Batching: ~149m³
- Fuel stores (Petrol and/or Diesel): ~250m³
- Paint, grease, transformer oils, construction chemicals, lubricants: ~100m³

Listing Notice 3, Activity 12(f)(ii):

The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.

f. Mpumalanga

ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.

The clearance of an area of 5 000m² or more of indigenous vegetation will be required for the internal roads and underground cables of 132kV. The CBAs identified are as per the MBSP formally adopted by the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in the Provincial Gazette No 2535 of 26 May 2023 (Provincial Gazette Notice 279 of 2023).

Listing Notice 3, Activity 14(f)(i) (ee):

The development of-

(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more.

where such development occurs-

(a) within a watercourse.

Mukondeleli 1 Solar PV Facility will require the development of several components of the facility within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. The components of the facility that will be located within 32m of the outer

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<p>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse,</p> <p>f. Mpumalanga</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>extent of the delineated watercourses in CBA Optimal Areas includes the internal roads internal roads and underground cables of 132kV. This will require the clearance of 5 000m² of indigenous vegetation. The CBAs identified are as per the MBSP formally adopted by the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in the Provincial Gazette No 2535 of 26 May 2023 (Provincial Gazette Notice 279 of 2023).</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 18(f)(i) (ee):</u></p> <p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>f. Mpumalanga</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>Transport of large infrastructure components related to the facility will require the widening of existing access and/or internal roads where no reserve exists and where such road is wider than 8 metres. The existing road are two track roads with an average width of 1.5m. Due to the fact that the internal roads are required to be widened to 10m, the existing roads will be widened by 6.5m. Such widening will be located within CBA Optimal Areas.</p>
<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Activity 23(ii)(a)(c)(f) (i)(ee):</u></p> <p>The expansion of-</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more, where such expansion occurs-</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse,</p> <p>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse</p> <p>f. Mpumalanga</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p>	<p>The facility will require the expansion of existing access and/or internal roads, culverts or similar drainage crossing infrastructure collectively exceeding 100m² or more beyond existing road or road reserves located within delineated watercourses on site, or within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site. The physical footprint the various components of the facility will traverse the delineated watercourses on site or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site within CBA Optimal. The CBAs identified are as per the MBSP formally adopted by the MEC for</p>

	Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs in the Provincial Gazette No 2535 of 26 May 2023 (Provincial Gazette Notice 279 of 2023).
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as described in the final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAR) dated February 2024:

SG 21 Code for the proposed development

T	0	I	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
T	0	I	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	2
T	0	I	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	3
T	0	I	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	4
T	0	I	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	5
T	0	I	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	1	3
T	0	I	S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	9

Coordinates of the proposed solar PV facility

	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Coordinates of the site and activity location	Centre	26°37'50.95"S	29°13'48.20"E
Coordinate Points of the Cadastral Land Parcel	A	26° 37' 15.621" S	29° 12' 43.082" E
	B	26° 38' 13.297" S	29° 13' 3.523" E
	C	26° 38' 14.148" S	29° 13' 8.234" E
	D	26° 39' 0.226" S	29° 13' 11.165" E
	E	26° 38' 41.366" S	29° 14' 41.064" E
	F	26° 38' 29.007" S	29° 14' 37.837" E
	G	26° 38' 45.589" S	29° 14' 51.137" E
	H	26° 38' 26.206" S	29° 14' 44.566" E
	I	26° 38' 7.324" S	29° 14' 59.330" E
	J	26° 37' 10.260" S	29° 14' 40.598" E
	K	26° 37' 13.652" S	29° 14' 20.630" E
	L	26° 36' 51.692" S	29° 14' 13.492" E
	M	26° 36' 55.889" S	29° 13' 29.604" E
	N	26° 37' 12.511" S	29° 13' 39.121" E
	O	26° 37' 16.075" S	29° 13' 37.892" E

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Preferred Substation and O&M Building (Scenario 1)	A5	26° 38' 13.163" S	29° 13' 45.366" E
	A6	26° 38' 13.061" S	29° 13' 51.871" E
	A7	26° 38' 16.958" S	29° 13' 51.947" E
	A8	26° 38' 17.060" S	29° 13' 45.442" E
Substation and BESS Outer Coordinates	S1	26° 38' 21.239" S	29° 14' 3.553" E
	S2	26° 38' 21.094" S	29° 14' 12.766" E
	S3	26° 38' 23.783" S	29° 14' 12.819" E
	S4	26° 38' 23.928" S	29° 14' 3.605" E
O&M Building Outer Coordinates	O1	26° 37' 9.216" S	29° 13' 50.295" E
	O2	26° 37' 9.131" S	29° 13' 55.715" E
	O3	26° 37' 11.404" S	29° 13' 55.760" E
	O4	26° 37' 11.490" S	29° 13' 50.339" E
Laydown Area Outer Coordinates	L1	26° 38' 54.590" S	29° 13' 28.576" E
	L2	26° 38' 54.829" S	29° 13' 13.256" E
	L3	26° 38' 57.251" S	29° 13' 13.303" E
	L4	26° 38' 57.208" S	29° 13' 16.094" E
	L5	26° 37' 11.729" S	29° 13' 55.766" E
	L6	26° 37' 17.576" S	29° 13' 55.879" E
	L7	26° 37' 17.706" S	29° 13' 47.568" E
	L8	26° 37' 11.860" S	29° 13' 47.454" E

- for the development of a 300MW Mukondeleli 1 Solar Photovoltaic Facility and associated infrastructure, near the town of Secunda, within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

Project Description:

Mukondeleli Solar (RF) Pty Ltd is proposing the development 300MW Mukondeleli 1 Solar Photovoltaic Facility and associated infrastructure, within a footprint of 975ha, near the Town of Secunda, located on Portion 0 of the Farm Knoppies No. 314, Portion 2 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 3 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 4 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 5 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, Portion 13 of the Farm Brandwacht No. 316, and Portion 9 of the Farm Knoppiesfontein No. 313, within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province.

The proposed Mukondeleli 1 Solar PV Facility will include the following infrastructure:

Components	Dimensions
Extent	975ha
Buildable area	600ha
Capacity	300MW
Power system technology	Solar PV
Solar Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photovoltaic Technology. • Height of Panels: 6m. • PV modules will be elevated above the ground and will be located on either single axis tracking structures or fixed tilt mounting structures or similar. • Footprint of solar panel area: 400ha (4 000 000m²).
Substation and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high voltage substation yard to allow for multiple 132kV feeder bays and transformers. • Total footprint area of the substation: 4.25ha (42 500m²). • Footprint for the IPP Portion of the substation (for authorisation for this application): 2.1ha (21 000m²) • The offtaker Portion of the substation is included in the Grid Infrastructure Application. • The project will include the development of a 300MW/1200MWh BESS storage capacity with up to four hours of storage. • The BESS will be located within the substation footprint. • The proposed BESS Facility will utilize either of the two BESS technology options: Lithium Battery Technologies, such as Lithium-Ion Phosphate, Lithium Nickel Manganese Cobalt oxides or Vanadium Redox flow technologies.
Operations and maintenance (O&M) building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O&M building infrastructure will be required to support the functioning of the SEF and for services required by operations and maintenance staff. • Footprint of the O&M Building: 1.06ha (10 600m²)

Construction camp and laydown area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two construction camp and laydown areas Y • Footprint of construction camp area 1: 2ha (20 000m²). • Footprint of construction camp area 2: 4.2ha (42 000m²). • Includes septic tanks and portable toilets. • Temporary cement batching plant: Gravel and sand will be stored in separate heaps whilst the cement will be contained in a silo.
Internal Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal roads need to be provided to the site and between project components inclusive of stormwater infrastructure. As far as possible, internal roads will follow existing gravel roads and paths, of which some may require widening/upgrading. • Where/if required, turning circle/bypass areas will need to be constructed. • Roads will be gravel. • Width of internal road: 10m. • Length of internal roads: 8km.
Other infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal underground cables of up to 132kV. • Communication AC and DC cables. • Fencing (between 2 – 3m high) around the PV Facility. • Panel maintenance and cleaning area. • Storm water management system.

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The development of a 300MW Mukondeleli 1 Solar Photovoltaic Facility and associated infrastructure, near the town of Secunda, within the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, in the Mpumalanga Province is approved as per the geographic coordinates cited in the table above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation, which form part of the Environmental Authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.

3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant, or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised must only be conducted 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 for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Construction must be completed within ten (10) years of the commencement of the activity on site.
9. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

10. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this Environmental Authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
11. The notification referred to must –
 - 11.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued,
 - 11.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014,
 - 11.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 11.4. give the reasons of the Competent Authority for the decision.

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Commencement of the activity

12. The authorised activity must not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014, and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of Section 43(7), an appeal under Section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended will suspend the Environmental Authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

13. Mukondeleli 1 Solar PV Facility: Layout plan, attached as Appendix D of the final EIAR dated February 2024 is hereby not approved. A copy of the final development layout map must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final development layout map must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - 13.1. The delineation of the buffers between the PV panels and the Wind Turbines, after the final walk through has been undertaken, for the maintenance of both the panels and turbines.
14. The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) and generic EMPr submitted as part of the final EIAR is not approved and must be amended to include measures as dictated by the final site lay-out map and micro-siting, and the provisions of this environmental authorisation. The EMPr must be made available for comments by registered Interested and Affected Parties and the holder of this environmental authorisation must consider such comments. Once amended, the final EMPr must be submitted to the Department for written approval prior to commencement of the activity. Once approved the EMPr must be implemented and adhered to.
15. The amended EMPr must include the preferred BESS technology, the risk identified and mitigation measures.
16. The EMPr must be implemented and strictly enforced during all phases of the project. It shall be seen as a dynamic document and should be included in all contract documentation for all phases of the development when approved.
17. Changes to the approved EMPr must be submitted in accordance with the EIA Regulations applicable at the time.
18. The Department reserves the right to amend the approved EMPr should any impacts that were not anticipated or covered in the EIAR 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 25 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 because 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 task 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 and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, considering 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 environmental audit reports to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e., within 30 days of site handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.
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. A pre-construction walkdown of the approved development footprints must be conducted during the wet/growing season to identify sensitive biodiversity features (i.e., flora SCC) which require permits for removal/translocation; and inform the micro-siting of project infrastructure.
35. A permit must be obtained from the relevant authorities for the removal or disturbance of any TOPs, Red Data listed or provincially protected species prior construction.
36. The highly sensitive areas as identified by avifauna and heritage specialists must be clearly demarcated as no-go areas.
37. No exotic plants must be used for rehabilitation purposes. Only indigenous plants of the area must be used.
38. The PV facility and infrastructure footprints must avoid areas designated CBA 1, and delineated wetland and their buffers.
39. A 100m buffer around the substations to allow for micro-siting must be adhere to.
40. Should any archaeological sites, artefacts, paleontological fossils, or graves be exposed during construction work, work in the immediate vicinity of the find must be stopped, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be informed, and the services of an accredited heritage professional obtained for an assessment of the heritage resources.
41. Hazardous substances must be stored in a bunded and designated area to avoid accidental leakage into the environment.
42. 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

43. A copy of this Environmental Authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMP, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 43.1. at the site of the authorised activity,

- 43.2. to anyone on request; and
- 43.3. Where the holder of the Environmental Authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
44. 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: 09/04/2024



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries & 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 17 July 2023, amended application form received on 14 February 2024.
- b) The information contained in the final EIAR dated February 2024.
- c) The comments received from all interested and affected parties as included in the final EIAR dated February 2024.
- d) Mitigation measures as proposed in the EIAR and the EMPr for the facility and the generic EMPs dated February 2024.
- e) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within the appendices of the final EIAR.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was considered in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- b) The need for the proposed project ties in with the national government policies, plans, and programmes which have relevance to energy planning and production.
- c) The final EIAR dated February 2024 identified all legislations and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the EIAR.
- d) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the final EIAR dated February 2024 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- e) 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 final EIAR dated February 2024 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 proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.



- d) EMP measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the EIAR 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.