

Dale Holder

From: Fiona Grimett <FGrimett@environment.gov.za>
Sent: 30 September 2020 12:19 PM
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Matlhodi Mogorosi; Sindiswa Dlomo
Subject: PP plan approval for Hotazel Solar Phase II, Northern Cape Province
Attachments: JMO637.02 Public Participation Plan Hotazel 2.pdf; Process for Submitting files to the CD IEA_062020.pdf

Dear Dale,

The attached public participation plan for Hotazel Solar Phase II, Northern Cape Province refers.

The Department has reviewed the attached Public Participation (PP) Plan, submitted in terms of the Directions Regarding Measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of COVID-19 Relating to National Environmental Management Permits and Licences. The proposed plan contains suitable public consultation measures, and is hereby **approved**. Please also consider the possibility of posting notices of the availability of the report for comment on social media (in addition to the newspaper advertisement), as well as holding virtual meetings as reasonable alternative methods of public participation, if requested by I&APs where they are reasonably unable to access and comment on the report (e.g. illiteracy). You may proceed with the implementation of the PP plan.

Further note that the attached directions apply with regards to the process for submitting draft documents to the Competent Authority for comment. Please ensure that you attach this PP plan approval to the application form, when submitting to the Department.

Regards,

Fiona Grimett
Department of Environmental Affairs
Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Directorate: National Infrastructure Development: National Infrastructure Projects
Email: fgrimett@environment.gov.za

From: Dale Holder <dale@cape-eaprac.co.za>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 09:26
To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>
Subject: Pre Application Meeting Request and submission of Public Participation Plan - Hotazel 2

To Whom it may concern.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST AND SUBMISSION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN - HOTAZEL 2

Kindly find attached request for pre application meeting, proposed public participation plan and document control form for the proposed Hotazel 2.

Please note that a pre application meeting was already held in respect of this application on 25 October 2019 (meeting Minutes attached). We are therefore happy for the allocated case officer to review and comment on the PPP Plan directly, without the need to have a second pre application meeting.

Kind Regards,

Dale Holder | 082 448 9225
SENIOR CONSULTANT | ECO | GIS
Ndip Nat. Con. (Pretoria Tech)

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PO Box 2070, George 6530



COVID-19 operational notice



Our advisers and staff are working remotely and are contactable via email or on their cellphones.



We will advise when physical meetings and office visits can resume. Our commitment to offering you service excellence remains unchanged.

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Dale Holder

From: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>
Sent: 16 October 2020 11:20 AM
To: Dale Holder
Cc: EIAAdmin; Ephron Maradwa; Salome Mambane; Matlhodi Mogorosi;
robert.wagener@abo-wind.com
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2017

Dear Dale Holder
14/12/16/3/3/2/2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A SCOPING ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED HOTAZEL 2 ON THE REMAINING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE SITUATED IN THE DISTRICT OF HOTAZEL 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 14 October 2020. 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.

Yours in admin

EIA Applications

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Julliet Mahlangu
Integrated Environmental Authorisations:
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environmental affairs

Department
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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environment, forestry & fisheries

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2017

Enquiries: Mathodi Mogorosi

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

Mr Dale Holder
Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Cape EAPrac)
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 100 MEGAWATTS (MW) HOTAZEL 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR HOTAZEL, WITHIN THE JOE MOROLONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated October 2020 and received by the Department on 14 October 2020, refer.

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

(a) Listed Activities

- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final Scoping Report, 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

- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
- The proposed location of the PV arrays with associated infrastructure of the proposed development;
- The proposed grid infrastructure for the above PV facility, overlain by the sensitivity map;
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All "no-go" areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- Google maps will not be accepted.

(c) Public Participation Process

- Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the Scoping Report from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final Scoping Report. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final Scoping Report. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final Scoping Report. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and must be in a table format. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured and responded to fully (copy verbatim if required). Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs comments.
- 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.

(d) Specialist Assessments

- Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of the PV arrays, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- 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.
- Please include a summary table of the specialist studies identified by the Department's Screening Tool in the final scoping report. Indicate in the table, which specialist studies were commissioned and provide motivation for those any studies not undertaken.

(e) Cumulative Assessment

- Should there be any other similar projects 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 Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo

Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects

Date: 11/11/2020

cc:	R Wagener	Hotazel Solar Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email: robert.wagener@abo-wind.com
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Dale Holder

From: Juliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>
Sent: 30 November 2020 10:49 AM
To: Dale Holder
Cc: Ephron Maradwa; EIAAdmin; Salome Mambane; Matlhodi Mogorosi
Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2017

Dear Dale Holder

14/12/16/3/3/2/2017

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE FINAL SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED HOTAZEL 2 ON THE REMAINING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE SITUATED IN THE DISTRICT OF HOTAZEL IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the final Scoping Report for the abovementioned project on 26 November 2020. 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.

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

Yours in admin
EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries



**environment, forestry
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Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
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environment, forestry & fisheries

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DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2017

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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Mr Holder

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 100MW HOTAZEL 2 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR HOTAZEL, WITHIN THE JOE MOROLONG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated November 2020 and received by the Department on 26 November 2020, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated November 2020; 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(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) must comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following information is 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) The EIAR must assess the correct sub-listed activity for each listed activity applied for.

(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 Environment and Nature Conservation, Department of Water and Sanitation, Joe Morolong Municipality, John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), Department of Transport and Public Works, The South African Square Kilometre Array, Northern Cape Heritage Resources Authority, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: Biodiversity & Conservation Directorate, Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Provincial Department of Agriculture, Eskom, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Birdlife Africa.
- (ii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAr. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of 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 C&R. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- (iv) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into themes / categories. Comments from each I&AP submission must be responded to individually.
- (v) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(c) Alternatives

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

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIAr must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site, as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided).
- (ii) The EIAr must provide the following:
 - A clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed solar energy facility; i.e. the photovoltaic (PV) modules and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - A clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Powerlines;
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area and auxiliary buildings etc.
 - All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed solar PV infrastructure.
 - 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 crossings 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;
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially railway lines and roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
 - A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(e) Specialist assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies includes the following:
 - A detailed description of the study's methodology; an indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
 - Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - 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.
 - Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition, this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - 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.
 - Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - 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 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 on whether the proposed development must proceed.

- (ii) 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.
- (iii) It is further brought to your attention that the Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5) (a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation (i.e. "the Protocols"), which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020, came into effect on 09 May 2020. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols, except where the applicant provides proof to the competent authority that the specialist assessment affected by these protocols had been commissioned before 9 May 2020, in which case Appendix 6 of the Environmental impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, will apply to such applications.

(f) Environmental Management Programme

- (i) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the EIA Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programmes (EMPr), contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used over and above the EMPr for the PV facility. Accordingly, there needs to be a generic EMPr for the on-site substation, a generic EMPr for the overhead powerline and a third, separate EMPr for the PV facility.
- (ii) Please ensure that any specific mitigation measures identified in the EIAR and specialist reports for the on-site substation and powerline are incorporated into the site specific section of the generic EMPrs.
- (iii) Please ensure that the mitigation measures specified in the EIAR and specialist reports for the PV facility are also incorporated into the EMPr for the PV facility. In addition, ensure that the EMPr complies with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(g) Validity period and auditing frequency

- (i) Please ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation (EA) is required, the date on which the activity will be concluded and the post construction monitoring requirements finalised, as per Appendix 3(3)(1)(r) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
- (ii) Please also recommended a frequency for the auditing of compliance with the conditions of the EA and EMPr (for the construction and post-construction monitoring phases), and for the submission of such compliance reports to the competent authority.

(h) General

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

Sample of minimum technical details required for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV structures	
Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)	
Number of overhead power lines required	
Voltage of overhead power lines	
Height of the Power Line	
Capacity of the facility	

Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Additional Infrastructure	
Access roads	

- (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.

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) 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.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Signed by: Ms Fiona Grimett
Designation: Deputy Director (Acting): National Infrastructure Projects
Date: 01/02/2021

cc:	R Wagener	Hotazel Solar Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email: robert.wagener@abo-wind.com
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