



environmental affairs

**Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NEAS Reference: DEA/EIA/0000390/2011

DEA Reference: 12/12/20/2175

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Ashlea Strong
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PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms. Strong

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED EXTENSION OF ASH DAMS AT HENDRINA POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated August 2011 and received by the Department on 30 August 2011 refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated August 2011 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30 (1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

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, 2010.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to; Mpumalanga: Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; Department of Water Affairs; Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Transnet and SAHRA. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

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

- a) 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.
- b) The total footprint of the proposed development should be indicated. Exact locations of the proposed ash dam, and associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
- c) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.
- d) Should land use change be applied for, proof of application needs to be sent to this Department.
- e) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the vegetation ecology with regard to wetland found in the locality should be indicated.
- f) Possible impacts and effects of the development on the pipelines traversing the preferred alternative site especially the mine water pipeline and Water Affairs pipeline.
- g) A construction and operational phase EMP to include mitigation and monitoring measures.
- h) Should blasting be required, appropriate mitigation measures should be provided.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in regulation 56 (3a-3h).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR illustrate the different proposed alignments and above ground storage of fuel. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit five (5) hard copies of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Department as per regulation 34 (1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010. Please also submit at least one electronic copy (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Ishaam Abader

**Deputy- Director General: Environmental Quality and Protection
Department of Environmental Affairs**

Letter signed by: Mr Dumisani Mthembu

Designation: Director: Environmental Impact Evaluation

Date: 26/07/2011

CC: Julia Nair
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