



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/985/AM1

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Ms Deidre Herbst
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
P.O Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Telephone Number: (011) 800 2621
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PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Herbst

AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 14 DECEMBER 2016 FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE LETHABO POWER STATION EAST COOLING WATER TREATMENT PLANT WITHIN THE METSIMAHOLO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) dated 14 December 2016 for the abovementioned project and your application for amendment to the EA received by this Department on 16 March 2017, refers.

Based on a review of the reasons for requesting a change of the Site alternative 4 to Site alternative 3 of the EA dated 14 December 2016, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, has decided to amend the EA dated 14 December 2016 as follows:

Amendment 1: To amend the site alternative

From:

The preferred Site Alternative 4 for the proposed Cooling Water Treatment Plant project is approved.

To:

The Site Alternative 3 for the proposed Cooling Water Treatment Plant project is approved.

Reason for amendment:

The reason for the abovementioned application to change the siting of the Cooling Water Treatment Plant from Site Alternative 4 to Site Alternative 3, is as a result of the findings of the Geotechnical Survey conducted by BKS in 2011. The study revealed that pile foundations were installed on this site and therefore recommended that a rigorous investigation be carried out in order to determine the position, depth, length, geometry and structural integrity of the piles, to determine if the piles could still be used for new structures and whether the new plant can be positioned in between old piles. Subsequent to this BKS recommendation, pile specialists confirmed that such older, existing piles would not be usable.

MS

In Eskom's opinion, the only way of locating the piles would be through major excavations across the entire proposed area and a number of concerns were expressed.

No fatal flaws were identified with Site Alternative 3.

This letter must be read in conjunction with the Environmental Authorisation dated 14 December 2016.

In terms of Regulation 4(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (the Regulations), you are instructed to notify all registered interested and affected parties, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) days of the date of the EA, of the Department's decision in respect of your application as well as the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeals Regulations, and the provisions regarding the submission of appeals as contained in the Regulations.

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:

Mr Z Hassam, Director: Appeals and Legal Review of this Department at the below mentioned addresses.

By email: appealsdirector@environment.gov.za;

By hand: Environment House
473 Steve Biko,
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, 1998, 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 appealsdirector@environment.gov.za.

Yours faithfully,


Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Date: 23/05/2017