



## **environmental affairs**

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

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**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/508/AM3

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Ms Andrea van Gensen  
Eskom Holdings SOC Limited  
120 Henry Street  
**BLOEMFONTEIN**  
0930

Telephone Number: (051) 404 2040  
Email Address: vgenseal@eskom.co.za

### **PER EMAIL / MAIL**

Dear Ms Van Gensen

### **AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND THE APPROVAL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SWITCHING STATION, 132kV POWER LINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE DROOGFONTEIN II PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR PLANT ON THE FARM DROOGFONTEIN, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.**

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) issued for the abovementioned application by this Department on 30 April 2013, your application for amendment of the EA, the final reports and the EMPr received by the Department on 03 November 2017 refer.

Based on a review of the reason for requesting an amendment to the above EA and the approval of the EMPr, this Department, in terms of Chapter 5 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, has decided to amend the EA dated 30 April 2013, the first amended EA dated 21 June 2013 and the second amended EA dated 16 May 2016 as follows:

#### **Amendments to the original Environmental Authorisation (14/12/16/3/3/1/508) dated 30 April 2013**

##### **Amendment 1:**

The EA is amended as follows:

- "GNR 546 item 23" to read as "GNR 546 Item 4"

##### **Reasons for the amendment**

The correct activity description was provided (i.e. for the construction of a road), however the incorrect activity number has been allocated. This has been corrected to Activity 4 of GNR 546 to ensure that the activity number corresponds to the activity description. Please note that Activity 4 GNR 546 was applied for, while Activity 23 GNR 546 was not applied for.

*M.S*

## **Amendment 2:**

The EA is amended as follows:

*"Portion 1/62 through Portion 69 of Droogfontein farm" must be replaced with the following list of farms:*

- *Remainder of the Farm Droogfontein No 62*
- *Portion 14 of the Farm Droogfontein No 62*
- *Remainder of the Farm Eerste Aanleg No. 50*
- *Portion 3 of the Farm Eerste Aanleg No. 50*
- *Portion 1 of the Farm Eerste Aanleg No. 50*
- *Remainder of Portion 1 of the Farm Droogfontein No 62*
- *Portion 4 of the Farm Eerste Aanleg No. 50*
- *Remainder of the Farm Pitzers Vlakte No. 177*

## **Reasons for the amendment**

The holder of the Environmental Authorisation for the proposed development would like all applicable farms being traversed by the power line to be expressly mentioned in the EA, for administrative and due diligence purposes. Please note that the list of farms were included and assessed in the final Basic Assessment Report.

## **Amendment 3:**

The description of the infrastructure associated with the facility to be amended as follows:

### **From:**

- *"Construction of 1x132kV overhead power line from the proposed Droogfontein CPV/PV 2 substation and will loop-in to the existing KDS-Macfarlane 132kV power line".*

### **To:**

- *"Construction of 2x132kV overhead power lines (double-circuit configuration on the same towers) from the proposed Droogfontein CPV/PV 2 substation and will loop-in and loop-out on the existing KDS-Macfarlane 132kV power line" and*
- *"A switching station of approximately 90m x 60m located at the Droogfontein 2 PV site substation complex".*

## **Reasons for the amendment**

The requested amendment are required to ensure that the grid connection meets Eskom's technical and legal requirements to enable power generated from the PV site to be evacuated into the national Eskom grid. The currently authorised power line is a 1x132kV overhead power line that will loop in to the existing KDS-Macfarlane 132kV power line. The description of the power line is amended to allow a double circuit configuration to be included consisting of (two) 2x132kV conductors on the same set of towers from Droogfontein 2 Solar Plant with a loop-in and loop-out configuration onto the KDS-Macfarlane 132kV power line.

Eskom has further advised that part of the Droogfontein 2 PV substation complex (specifically the switching station component) must be ceded to Eskom, as Eskom will own and maintain and operate the switching station and assume the responsibility for environmental management activities associated with the switching station. An amendment of EA (14/12/16/3/3/1/508/1) to include the switching station is required to enable Eskom to take ownership. The switching station (approximately 90m x 60m) will be located within a fenced substation area as authorised in the EA for the PV site under EA 12/12/20/2024/1/1A. The total substation area will remain as specified in the original PV site environmental authorisation. The switching station was applied for and all impacts associated with the development of it were assessed as part of the PV site EA 12/12/20/2024/1/1A, in which the entire substation complex was assessed and ultimately authorised.

**Amendments to the Environmental Authorisation 1st Amendment (14/12/16/3/3/1/508/1) dated 24 June 2013:**

The following are the amendments to the Amended Environmental Authorisation 14/12/16/3/3/1/508/1 dated 24 June 2013:

**Amendment 1**

Activity Description for the GNR 544 Item 10 amended as follows:

**From:**

- *"The construction of a 132kV power line"*

**To:**

- *"The construction of 2x132kV overhead power lines (double-circuit configuration on the same tower) and a switching station of (approximately 70m x 60m located at the PV site substation complex".*

**Reasons for the amendment**

The requested amendment are required to ensure that the grid connection meets Eskom's technical and legal requirements to enable power generated from the PV site to be evacuated into the national Eskom grid. The currently authorised power line is a 1x132kV overhead power line that will loop in to the existing KDS-Macfarlane 132kV power line. The description of the power line was amended to allow a double circuit configuration to be included consisting of (two) 2x132kV conductors on the same set of towers from Droogfontein 2 Solar Plant with a loop-in and loop-out configuration onto the KDS-Macfarlane 132kV power line.

Eskom has further advised that part of the Droogfontein 2 PV substation complex (specifically the switching station component) must be ceded to Eskom, as Eskom will own and maintain and operate the switching station and assume the responsibility for environmental management activities associates with the switching station. An amendment of EA (14/12/16/3/3/1/508/1) to include the switching station is required to enable Eskom to take ownership. The switching station (approximately 90m x 60m) will be located within a fenced substation area as authorised in the EA for the PV site under EA 12/12/20/2024/1/1A. The total substation area will remain as specified in the original PV site environmental authorisation. The switching station was applied for and all impacts associated with the development of it were assessed as part of the PV site EA 12/12/20/2024/1/1A in which the entire substation complex was assessed and ultimately authorised.

**Amendment to the Environmental Authorisation 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (14/12/16/3/1/508/AM1)-Dated 16 May 2016:**

The following are amendment to the second amended Environmental Authorisation (14/12/16/3/1/508/AM1) dated 16 May 2016 as follows:

Correction of DEA Reference number from 14/12/16/3/1/508/AM1 to 14/12/16/3/3/1/508/1.

**Reasons for the amendment**

The correct reference number of the Droogfontein 2x132kV power line is 14/12/16/3/3/1/508//1. The second Amended EA has incorrectly used 14/12/16/3/1/508/AM1.

**Approval of the EMPr**

This Department has also evaluated and hereby approves the EMPr dated 26 September 2017. The EMPr adequately addresses possible impacts associated with development.

This EMPr may, however, be amended from time to time as and when the need arises. Amendments to the EMPr must be approved by this Department.

The amendment letter must be read in conjunction with the original EA issued on 30 April 2013, the first amended EA dated 21 June 2013 and the second amended EA dated 16 May 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 Department's decision. This is in respect of the amendment made as well as the provisions regarding the submission of appeals that are 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](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za);

By hand: Environment House  
473 Steve Biko Road,  
Arcadia,  
Pretoria.

By post: Private Bag X447,  
Pretoria,  
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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](https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms#legal_authorisations) or request a copy of the documents at [appealsdirector@environment.gov.za](mailto:appealsdirector@environment.gov.za).

Kindly include a copy of this document with the letter of notification to interested and affected parties.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**

Date: *26/01/2018*

cc: Mr Shaun Taylor	SIVEST SA (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:shaunt@sivest.co.za">shaunt@sivest.co.za</a>
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