

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

OF THE APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, ACT NO. 107 OF 1998, AS AMENDED: FOR THE ELECTRICAL GRID CONNECTION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED FOR THE HARTEBEESTHOEK EAST WIND ENERGY FACILITY AND HARTEBEESTHOEK WEST WIND ENERGY FACILITY, EASTERN AND NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCES

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the BAR dated December 2019;
- b) The comments received from SAHRA and interested and affected parties as included in the BAR dated December 2019;
- c) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated December 2019 and the EMPr;
- d) The information contained in the specialist studies contained within Volume II of the BAR; and
- e) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including Section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No.107 of 1998, as amended.

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account 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 information presented in the application for amendment received on 10 August 2021.
- b) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.
- c) The need for the proposed project stems from transferring the generated electricity from proposed split(s) of the authorised San Kraal WEF and Phezukomoya WEF to the national grid ('Grid Infrastructure').
- d) The BAR dated December 2019 identified all legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR.
- e) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated December 2019 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- f) 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 BAR dated December 2019 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) The information contained in the BAR dated December 2019 is deemed to be accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR 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, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The Environmental Authorisation is accordingly granted.