

REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/B1/7/1019/20
ENQUIRIES: Ntanganedzeni Mabasa
DATE: 9/9/2020

The Board of Directors
Eagle Towers SA (Pty) Ltd
Private Bag X4
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DIE BOORD
7613

Attention: Mr Avril van der Rheede

Tel: (021) 880 0914
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Dear Sir

COMMENT ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT ("BAR") IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ("NEMA") AND THE 2014 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ("EIA") REGULATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 35M HIGH TELECOMMUNICATIONS BASE STATION ON PORTION 1 OF FARM UITKOMST NO. 343, LAASTEDRIF BOERDERY, CERES.

1. The electronic copy of Draft BAR and letter dated June 2020, as received by this Department on the 16 July 2020 and the Department's acknowledgement thereof issued on 22 July 2020, refer.
2. Following the review of the information submitted to this Department, the following is noted:
 - 2.1 The proposal entails the development of a 35m high telecommunication mast and its associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of Farm Uitkomst No. 343, Laastedrif Boerdery, Ceres.
 - 2.2 The development footprint is 68.5m² and will be enclosed with a 2.4m high steel palisade fence.
 - 2.3 The site is zoned as Agriculture Zone I and located outside the urban area of Ceres.
 - 2.4 Electricity to power the mast will be sourced from the land owner.
 - 2.5 No new roads will be constructed as an existing farm road will be used to gain access to the proposed site.
 - 2.6 The proposed site is mapped to contain Matjiesfontein Shale Renosterveld vegetation that is not listed as threatened but supports some unique micro-habitats. The site does not form part of the Critical Biodiversity Area ("CBA") but has been identified as an Ecological Support Area ("ESA") due to habitat type and watercourse protection.
 - 2.7 No rivers, surface water resources or wetlands occur within 32m of the proposed site. There is a dam approximately 245m south-east of the proposed site, mainly used for

irrigation purposes. There are two non-perennial watercourses approximately 370m south-east and 240m north of the proposed site.

3. This Department's comments are as follows:
 - 3.1 It is indicated that the obstacle approval dated 2 March 2020 is attached as Appendix E2, but a copy is not included in the draft BAR. A copy of the approval must be included in the final BAR submitted for decision-making.
 - 3.2 A copy of the Public Participation Plan Approval for the application referenced 16/3/3/6/7/1/F1/11/2186/19 is included in the public participation information appended to the draft BAR and must be removed.
 - 3.3 The EMPr must be amended to include the site plan of the proposed development.
 - 3.4 In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation, the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014. Please advise what the estimated duration of the construction phase will be. In addition, you are required to recommend and motivate the frequency at which the environmental audits must be conducted by an independent person.
 - 3.5 Please be advised that an original signed and dated applicant declaration is required to be submitted with the BAR to this Department for decision-making. It is important to note that by signing this declaration, the applicant is confirming that they are aware and have taken cognisance of the contents of the report submitted for decision-making. Furthermore, through signing this declaration, the applicant is making a commitment that they are both willing and able to implement the necessary mitigation, management and monitoring measures recommended within the report with respect to this application.
 - 3.6 In addition to the above, please ensure that original signed and dated EAP and specialist declarations are also submitted with the BAR for decision-making.
 - 3.7 In addition to the above, please ensure that original signed and dated Environmental Assessment Practitioner ("EAP") declaration is also submitted with the final BAR for decision-making.
4. Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application.

5. Please note that the proposed development may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully



**HEAD OF COMPONENT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES: REGION 1
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

CC: (1) Emile Esquire (EnviroAfrica CC)
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