



## environmental affairs

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

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**DEA Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/3/3/40

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### **PER FACSIMILE / MAIL**

Dear Mr von Meyer

### **APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF 1200MW THABAMETSI COAL FIRED POWER STATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR LEPHALALE, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

The final scope of work for additional studies dated July 2016 and the comments and responses report received by the Department on 01 December 2016 refers.

The Department has evaluated the final scope of work for additional studies dated July 2016 together with the comments and responses report received and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The final scope of work for additional studies is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the climate change impact assessment and the Palaeontological impact assessment study in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the final scope of work for additional studies.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final climate change impact assessment and the Palaeontological impact assessment study. More importantly comments from the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must form part of the report. 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 final report:

- a) The proposal asserts that the focus should only be at operation phase since the construction phases are likely to be minimal. Whilst it is acknowledged that the emissions will be relatively less during the construction and de-commissioning phase, it is necessary for a full life-cycle to

be considered to satisfy both the precautionary principle and completeness of the assessment. It is recommended that emissions are mitigated throughout the lifecycle. The need for including the construction phase is further accentuated by the fact that the construction of a power station can lead to the loss of habitats that provide carbon sequestration in most instances. It is therefore recommended that emissions from the construction phase and decommissioning phase are also included in the study.

- b) It is acknowledged that a carbon footprint of the project will be conducted based on methodologies set out in the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and GHG Protocol. In line with recommendations for the construction and decommissioning phase emissions to be included, it is further recommended that the considerations should also be done for activities related to those phases. Further it is recommended that the study should specifically refer to the South African GHG inventory (2000-2010) for relevant emission factors.
- c) We acknowledge that the GHG impact associated with the power plant will be assessed by comparing the projected emissions to the national GHG emissions projections and that the emission intensity of the power plant will be benchmarked against existing facilities. It will be important to also address the project's resilience and capacity to cope, i.e. taking into account the risks associated with climate change. It is therefore recommended that the project's resilience be addressed.
- d) All comments received as part of the public participation process should be addressed adequately and should form part of the final report.

You are requested to submit two (2) copies of the final report to the Department and at least two electronic copies (CD/DVD) of the complete final report with the hard copy documents.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Sabelo Malaza**  
**Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**  
**Department of Environmental Affairs**  
**Letter signed by: Ms Khashiwe Masinga**  
**Designation: Director: Co-Ordination, Strategic Planning And Support**

**Date:** 16/01/2017

cc	Harutoshi Nakamura	Thabametsi Limited	Power Company	<a href="mailto:NAKUMURA-HARUTOSHI@marubeni.com">NAKUMURA-HARUTOSHI@marubeni.com</a>
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