



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/F5/17/2040/22
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001130/2022
DATE OF ISSUE: 31 January 2023

The Board of Directors
Southern Oil (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 707

SWELLENDAM
6740

Attention: Mr. Kellie Becker

E-mail: kellie@soill.co.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) (“NEMA”) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (“EIA”) REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE SOUTHERN OIL CANOLA OIL PROCESSING PLANT ON CONSOLIDATED ERF NO. 6491 AND ERF NO. 586, MOORREESBURG.

1. With reference to the above application, the competent authority hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.
2. In terms of Regulation 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the Environmental Authorisation, that all registered interested and affected parties are provided with access to and reasons for the decision, and that all registered interested and affected parties are notified of their right to appeal.
3. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the procedure to be followed in the event of appeals being lodged. This procedure is summarised in the attached Environmental Authorisation.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY

DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

CC: (1) Ms. Colleen McCreadie (The Environmental Practice)
(2) Mr. Alwyn Burger (Swartland Municipality)

E-mail: colleen@enviropac.co.za
E-mail: Alwynburger@swartland.org.za



REFERENCE: 16/3/3/1/F5/17/2040/22
NEAS REFERENCE: WCP/EIA/0001130/2022
DATE OF ISSUE: 31 January 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) (“NEMA”) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (“EIA”) REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE SOUTHERN OIL CANOLA OIL PROCESSING PLANT ON CONSOLIDATED ERF NO. 6491 AND ERF NO. 586, MOORREESBURG.

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the NEMA and the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the competent authority herewith grants Environmental Authorisation to the applicant to undertake the listed activity specified in Section B below with respect to the preferred alternative as included in the Basic Assessment Report (“BAR”) dated September 2022.

The granting of this Environmental Authorisation (hereinafter referred to as the “Environmental Authorisation”) is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in Section E below.

A. DETAILS OF THE HOLDER OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Southern Oil (Pty) Ltd.
c/o Mr. Kellie Becker
P.O. Box 707
SWELLENDAM
6740

Tel.: (028) 514 3441
Fax: (028) 514 1295
E-mail: kellie@soill.co.za

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as “the holder”.

B. LIST OF ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

| Listed Activity | Activity/Project Description |
|---|--|
| <p>Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended):</p> <p>Activity 10: <i>"The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.</i></p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <p>i. Areas zoned for use as public open space or equivalent zoning;</p> <p>ii. All areas outside urban areas; or</p> <p>iii. Inside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 200 metres from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined;</p> <p>(bb) Areas on the watercourse side of the development setback line or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse where no such setback line has been determined; or</p> <p>(cc) Areas on the estuary side of the development setback line or in an estuarine functional zone where no such setback line has been determined".</p> | <p>Phase 3 of the proposed development includes the installation of 3 X 23m³ underground storage tanks for the storage of hexane.</p> |

The abovementioned list is hereinafter referred to as "the listed activity".

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following related to the listed activity:

The proposed development entails the expansion of the existing cold-pressing canola oil production plant, on Consolidated Erf No. 6491 and Erf No. 586, Moorreesburg. The proposed expansion entails the construction of structures and infrastructure to enable hot pressing and chemical extraction of canola oil. The proposed development will be undertaken on the Industrial Zoned Consolidated Erf No. 6491, and the Business Zoned Erf No. 586, which is situated just south of Erf No. 6491. The proposed development will be undertaken in phases, as follows:

Phase 1:

- The existing production building will be raised in height from 7.6m to 10.6m.
- Three 29.4m high grain storage silos with a combined storage capacity of 6740 tons will be installed.
- A seed receiving pit and seed cleaners and an oil cake storage bunker will be constructed.
- Three 100 kilolitre processed oil storage tanks will be installed.
- The footprint of the additional structures and infrastructure will be approximately 1447m² and will cover the existing, developed area of Erf No. 4131, as well as Portion

A of the northern Erf No. 4128, which has been subdivided from Erf No. 4128 and now forms part of Consolidated Erf No. 4131.

Phase 2:

The site entrance and weighbridge will shift slightly north and the following infrastructure will be installed:

- Two additional 29.4m high grain storage silos with a storage capacity of 7400 tons.
- Conveyors ("seed loop chains") from the silos to the seed press, approximately 160m in length.
- Four 20 kilolitre rainwater harvesting tanks.
- Three additional 100 kilolitre processed oil storage tanks.
- The footprint of the Phase 2 infrastructure will be approximately 716m².

The construction of Phases 1 and 2 commenced in June 2021, to enable the urgent installation of grain storage facilities to accommodate the 2021 canola grain harvest. Phases 1 and 2 did not constitute any listed activities in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). For operational purposes, Phases 1 and 2 can operate independently of Phase 3.

Phase 3:

Phase 3 entails the installation of infrastructure to enable the chemical extraction of oil.

One 3.5 ton per hour boiler, cooling towers of 3m in height, and a conveyor ("loop chain") from the seed press to the extraction plant will be installed.

A new factory shop, warehouse, chemical extraction plant and a waste water (wash water) treatment plant of approximately 24 000 litres per day capacity, discharging to municipal sewer, will be constructed.

Three 23m³ capacity underground hexane storage tanks will be installed. The footprint of Phase 3 will be approximately 1017m² and will be on the very southern side of Erf No. 4131, and also on the southern Erf No. 586.

The chemical extraction plant and hexane storage tanks will be situated at least 10m from the watercourse. Equipment that uses hexane will be located in the solvent extraction plant within a bunded area connected to a sump where any spillages will be contained. The hexane storage and handling infrastructure will be designed and installed according to the relevant South African National Standards ("SANS")/National Fire Protection Association ("NFPA") codes and all other applicable regulations relating to Hazchem storage and handling infrastructure.

Monitoring wells will be installed up and down gradient of the chemical extraction plant and tank farm. Groundwater will be monitored bi-annually during the wet and dry season. Leak detection systems will be installed in accordance with SANS/NFPA standards and industry best practice.

The proposed development will connect to the municipal bulk engineering services network. Storm water, effluent and sewerage will discharge to the municipal system. Electricity will be supplied by the Swartland Municipality.

Access:

The trucks travelling to and from the site will utilise the Piketberg Road/N7 intersection to access River Street and will not enter and exit River Street via the Lang Street/Main Street intersection.

C. LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

The listed activity will be undertaken on Consolidated Erf No. 6491 and Erf No. 586, Moorreesburg.

Consolidated Erf No. 6491 is developed for agri-industrial purposes, and a small-scale cold-pressing canola oil plant is situated on the site. Erf No. 586 comprises a low-density residence and garden. Commercial land uses (mostly to the north and east) and residential land uses (mostly to the south and west) are located in close proximity to the site.

The SG 21-digit codes are:

| Land portion | SG 21-digit code |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Erf No. 6491 | C04600010000064910000 |
| Erf No. 586 | C04600010000058600000 |

Co-ordinates:

Latitude: 33° 09' 03.54" S

Longitude: 18° 39' 59.63" E

Refer to Annexure 1: Locality Plan and Annexure 2: Site Plan.

hereinafter referred to as "the site".

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER ("EAP")

The Environmental Practice
c/o Ms. Colleen McCreadie
23 Dartmouth Road

MUIZENBERG

7945

Tel.: (021) 788 9323

E-mail: colleen@enviroprac.co.za

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activity specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the preferred alternative, described in the BAR dated September 2022 on the site as described in Section C above.

2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to compliance with the conditions set out in this Environmental Authorisation. The holder must ensure compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
3. The holder must commence with the listed activity within a period of five (**5**) years, from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
4. The activity that has been authorised may only be carried out at the site described in Section C above in terms of the approved Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr").
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the description set out in Section B and Condition 2 above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the competent authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the competent authority may request such information to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

6. The holder of the authorisation must in writing, within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this decision –
 - 6.1 notify all registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 6.1.1 the outcome of the application;
 - 6.1.2 the reasons for the decision;
 - 6.1.3 the date of the decision; and
 - 6.1.4 the date of issue of the decision;
 - 6.2 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended);
 - 6.3 draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; and
 - 6.4 provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 6.4.1 the name of the holder (entity) of this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.2 name of the responsible person for this Environmental Authorisation,
 - 6.4.3 postal address of the holder,
 - 6.4.4 telephonic and fax details of the holder,
 - 6.4.5 e-mail address, if any;
 - 6.4.6 the contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Commencement

7. The listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the applicant notified the registered I&APs of this decision.

8. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Administrator, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until such time as the appeal is decided. In the instance where an appeal is lodged the holder may not commence with the activity, including site preparation, until such time as the appeal has been finalised and the holder is authorised to do so.

Written notice to the competent authority

9. A minimum of 7 (seven) calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the competent authority before commencement of construction activities. Commencement for the purpose of this condition includes site preparation.
 - 9.1 The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 9.2 The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:
Conditions: 6, 7 and 14.

Management of activity

10. The draft EMPr dated July 2022 (as compiled by The Environmental Practice) is hereby approved and must be implemented.
11. An application for amendment to the EMPr must be submitted to the competent authority in terms of Chapter 5 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) if any amendments are to be made to the outcomes of the EMPr, and these may only be implemented once the amended EMPr has been authorised by the competent authority.
12. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.
13. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr must be kept at the site where the listed activity will be undertaken. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted and, the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr must be produced to any authorised official representing the competent authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein. The Environmental Authorisation and EMPr must also be made available for inspection by any employee or agent of the applicant who works or undertakes work at the site.

Monitoring

14. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced Environment Control Officer ("ECO"), for the duration of the construction phase to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation.

The ECO must–

- 14.1 be appointed prior to commencement of any construction activities commencing;
- 14.2 ensure compliance with the EMPr and the conditions contained herein;
- 14.3 keep record of all activities on site; problems identified; transgressions noted, and a task schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO;

- 14.4 remain employed until all rehabilitation measures, as required for implementation due to construction damage, are completed;
- 14.5 provide the competent authority with copies of the ECO reports within 30 days of the project being finalised; and
- 14.6 conduct monthly site inspections during the construction phase.

Environmental audit reports

- 15. The holder must, for the period during which the Environmental Authorisation and EMPr remain valid -
 - 15.1 ensure that the compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr is audited;
 - 15.2 submit an environmental audit report four (4) months after commencement of the construction phase to the relevant competent authority;
 - 15.3 submit an environmental audit report six (6) months after completion of the construction phase to the relevant competent authority; and
 - 15.4 submit an environmental audit report every five (5) years while the Environmental Authorisation remains valid.

- 16. The environmental audit reports must be prepared by an independent person with expertise and must address the objectives and contain all the information set out in Appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
In addition to the above, the environmental audit report, must -
 - 16.1 provide verifiable findings, in a structured and systematic manner, on–
 - (a) the level of compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr and whether this is sufficient or not; and
 - (b) the extent to which the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr achieve the objectives and outcomes of the EMPr and highlight whether this is sufficient or not;
 - 16.2 identify and assess any new impacts and risks as a result of undertaking the activity;
 - 16.3 evaluate the effectiveness of the EMPr;
 - 16.4 identify shortcomings in the EMPr;
 - 16.5 identify the need for any changes to the avoidance, management and mitigation measures provided for in the EMPr;
 - 16.6 indicate the date on which the construction work was commenced with and completed or in the case where the development is incomplete, the progress of the development and rehabilitation;
 - 16.7 include a photographic record of the site applicable to the audit; and
 - 16.8 be informed by the ECO reports.

- 17. The holder must, within 7 days of the submission of the environmental audit report to the competent authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to anyone on request and, where the holder has such a facility, be placed on a publicly accessible website.

Specific conditions

- 18. Surface or ground water must not be polluted due to any actions on the site. The applicable requirements with respect to relevant legislation pertaining to water must be met.

19. An integrated waste management approach, which is based on waste minimisation and incorporates reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal, where appropriate, must be employed. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a waste disposal facility licensed in terms of the applicable legislation.
20. Should any heritage remains be exposed during excavations or any actions on the site, these must immediately be reported to the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape (in accordance with the applicable legislation). Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains include archaeological remains (including fossil bones and fossil shells); coins; indigenous and/or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; marine shell heaps; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features; rock art and rock engravings; shipwrecks; and graves or unmarked human burials.

A qualified archaeologist must be contracted where necessary (at the expense of the applicant and in consultation with the relevant authority) to remove any human remains in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority.

21. The holder of the Environmental Authorisation must, at all times, ensure that the activities comply with the Noise Regulations in terms of the relevant legislation.
22. The mature *Eucalyptus* tree in the southwestern corner of the site may only be pruned in accordance with the approved Landscape Plan.
 - 22.1 The *Eucalyptus* tree must be retained for at least 10 years after the planting of large trees to its south and west, which must be undertaken in accordance with the approved Landscape Plan.
23. The chemical extraction plant and hexane storage tanks must be situated at least 10m away from the watercourse.
24. Equipment that uses hexane must be located in the solvent extraction plant which must be positioned in a bunded area connected to a sump where any spillages must be contained.
25. The hexane storage and handling infrastructure must be designed and installed according to the relevant SANS/NFPA codes and all other applicable regulations relating to Hazchem storage and handling infrastructure.
26. Leak detection systems in accordance with SANS/NFPA standards and industry best practice must be installed at the underground hexane storage tanks.
27. Firefighting equipment must be present on site and adhere to the Oil Industry standards.
28. Monitoring wells must be installed up and down gradient of the chemical extraction plant and tank farm.
29. Groundwater must be monitored bi-annually during the wet and dry season.

30. Water saving mechanisms and/or water recycling systems must be installed in order to reduce water consumption that include *inter alia*, the following:
 - 30.1 Dual-flush toilet systems.
 - 30.2 All taps must be fitted with water saving devices (*i.e.*, tap aerators, flow restrictors and low flow shower heads).
 - 30.3 Water-wise landscaping must be established.

31. The development must incorporate energy/electricity saving measures, which include *inter alia*, the following:
 - 31.1 Use of energy efficient lamps and light fittings. Low energy bulbs must be installed, and replacement bulbs must also be of the low energy consumption type.
 - 31.2 Street lighting must be kept to a minimum and down lighting must be used to minimise light impacts. Streetlights must be switched off during the day.
 - 31.3 All geysers must be covered with geyser "blankets".
 - 31.4 The installation of solar water heaters and solar panels must be considered for all buildings.

General matters

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activity.

2. If the holder does not commence with the listed activity within the period referred to in Condition 3, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for the activity, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the competent authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the competent authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.

3. The holder must submit an application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the competent authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the competent authority must only be notified of such changes.

4. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:
Amendments to the EMPr, other than those mentioned above, must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

5. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.

F. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the competent authority -
 - 1.1 Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker *i.e.*, the competent authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs -
 - 2.1 Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2 Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker *i.e.*, the competent authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organ of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal and the responding statement must be submitted to the address listed below:

By post: Attention: Mr. Marius Venter
Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental
Affairs and Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or

By hand: Attention: Mr. Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 3721)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

Note: For purposes of electronic database management, you are also requested to submit electronic copies (Microsoft Word format) of the appeal, responding statement and any supporting documents to the Appeal Authority to the address listed above and/ or via e-mail to DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za.

5. A prescribed appeal form as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from Appeal Authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

G. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this environmental authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

DATE OF DECISION: 31 JANUARY 2023

CC: (1) Ms. Colleen McCreadie (The Environmental Practice)
(2) Mr. Alwyn Burger (Swartland Municipality)

E-mail: colleen@enviroprac.co.za
E-mail: Alwynburger@swartland.org.za

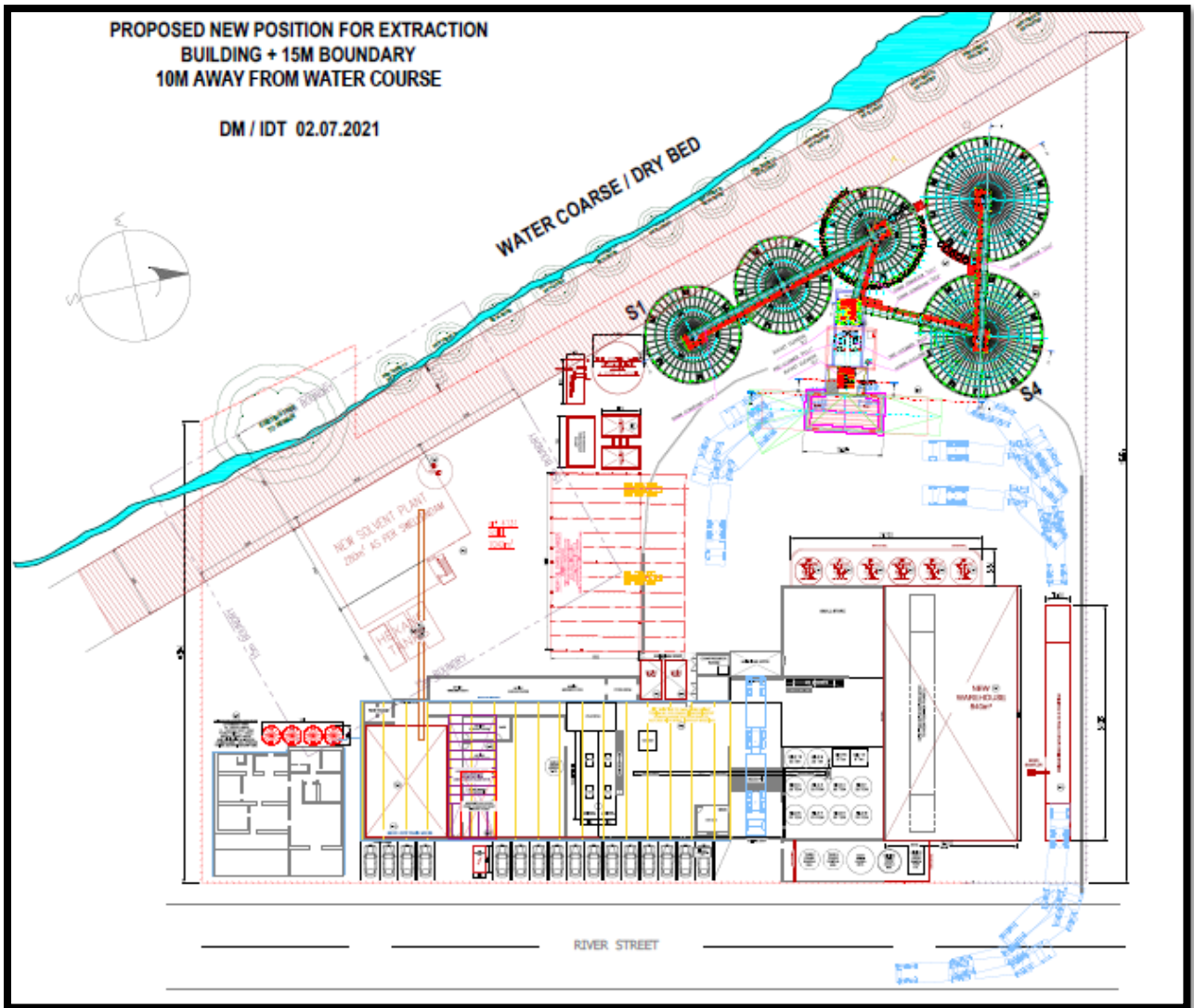
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: 16/3/3/1/F5/17/2040/22
NEAS EIA REFERENCE NUMBER: WCP/EIA/0001130/2022

ANNEXURE 1: LOCALITY PLAN



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN



Truck routes:



Tree planting locations as per the Visual Impact Assessment:



Proposed removal of tree limbs closest to new installation and removal of top/sides of canopy:



ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the competent authority, *inter alia*, considered the following:

- a) The information contained in the application form received by the competent authority via electronic mail correspondence 21 July 2022; the BAR dated September 2022, as received by the competent authority via electronic mail correspondence on 27 September 2022; and the EMPr submitted together with the BAR;
- b) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the NEMA.
- c) The comments received from I&APs and the responses provided thereon, as included in the BAR dated September 2022.
- d) No site visits were conducted. The competent authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the competent authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for environmental authorisation. A summary of the issues which, according to the competent authority, were the most significant reasons for the decision is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The Public Participation Process comprised of the following:

- Letters were posted to adjacent landowners and the occupiers of the site on 17 August 2021;
- An advertisement was placed in the "Weslander" newspaper on 19 August 2021;
- E-mails were sent to State Departments/organs of state, ward councillor and community and business representative organisations on 21 August 2021 and 24 August 2021, respectively;
- A notice was placed on site and at the Moorreesburg Police Station on 21 August 2021;
- The pre-application BAR was placed on the EAPs website on 22 August 2021;
- The pre-application BAR was made available from 23 August 2021 until 25 October 2021;
- E-mails were sent on 28 July 2022 to announce the availability of the draft BAR; and
- The draft BAR was made available from 28 July 2022 until 02 September 2022.

Authorities consulted

The authorities consulted included the following:

- Swartland Municipality;
- West Coast District Municipality;
- DEA&DP Directorate: Pollution & Chemicals Management;
- DEA&DP Directorate: Waste Management;
- Western Cape Department of Agriculture;
- Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works;
- Department of Water and Sanitation; and
- Heritage Western Cape.

The competent authority is satisfied that the Public Participation Process that was followed met the minimum legal requirements. All the comments and responses that were raised were responded to and included in the BAR.

2. Alternatives

The following site alternatives were investigated:

Erf No. 15711, Wellington, was purchased by Southern Oil for the purposes of developing a full-scale (cold and hot press, chemical extraction and refining) canola oil plant. According to a BAR compiled by Ecosense in 2020, Erf No. 15711 was ideal from the perspective of being central to suppliers and to distribution networks.

However, it was found that the site is contaminated due to its past land use, being tannery effluent storage. It was determined that the contamination should be remediated before any development can take place. The remediation process would take approximately two years. Furthermore, as per agreement with the developers of Erf No. 15711, bulk engineering services were to be supplied by the developers whilst they developed other industrial sites to the west of Erf No. 15711. These developments were put on hold as a result of COVID 19, and the site was left without services for the required canola factory development. Owing to the urgent need for a facility that can meet the local demand for additional canola grain processing, the site was excluded for the purposes of meeting Southern Oil's current needs.

Preferred site – herewith authorised:

There are no environmental sensitivities identified on Consolidated Erf No. 6491 and Erf No. 586, which prevent the proposed expansion from proceeding. The site is already owned and operated by Southern Oil, and therefore meets their urgent need to provide additional canola grain processing facilities to the local market.

Layout alternatives:

The layout must take into account truck turning circles, the need for significant grain storage facilities, and the optimal layout of the silos and conveyors, seed pits and other infrastructure to optimise operational efficiencies and reduce worker health and safety risks.

The preferred layout includes a setback of 10m between the Moorreesburg Spruit and the chemical extraction plant and hexane storage tanks. The preferred layout includes a buffer of 15m around the chemical extraction plant as required by the NFPA 36-2017 Standard for Solvent Extraction Plants, to minimise health and safety risks and risk of damage to property from possible hexane fire or explosion.

Hexane will be stored in underground tanks due to its explosive and flammable nature. Underground storage tanks are preferred to minimise the impacts of any fire or explosion that may occur at the bulk storage tanks.

The preferred layout includes the retention of the mature *Eucalyptus* trees in the southwestern corner of Erf No. 6491 for a period of at least 10 years after, for visual screening purposes.

Technology alternatives:

Lower noise conveyors (e.g., drag link conveyors, running on high-density polyethylene ("HDPE") wear strips, which will eliminate the steel-on-steel contact), will be used. Conventional noise barriers are only effective for ground-level noise sources and will not be effective for at-height noises associated with the silos and conveyors. Lower noise conveyors are therefore a must for noise control purposes.

Preferred alternative – herewith authorised:

The preferred alternative entails the expansion of the existing cold-pressing canola oil production plant, on Consolidated Erf No. 6491 and Erf No. 586, Moorreesburg. The proposed expansion entails the construction of structures and infrastructure to enable hot pressing and

chemical extraction of canola oil. The proposed development will be undertaken on the Industrial Zoned Consolidated Erf No. 6491, and the Business Zoned Erf No. 586, which is situated just south of Erf No. 6491. The proposed development will be undertaken in phases, as follows:

Phase 1:

- The existing production building will be raised in height from 7.6m to 10.6m.
- Three 29.4m high grain storage silos with a combined storage capacity of 6740 tons will be installed.
- A seed receiving pit and seed cleaners and an oil cake storage bunker will be constructed.
- Three 100 kilolitre processed oil storage tanks will be installed.
- The footprint of the additional structures and infrastructure will be approximately 1447m² and will cover the existing, developed area of Erf No. 4131, as well as Portion A of the northern Erf No. 4128, which has been subdivided from Erf No. 4128 and now forms part of Consolidated Erf No. 4131.

Phase 2:

The site entrance and weighbridge will shift slightly north and the following infrastructure will be installed:

- Two additional 29.4m high grain storage silos with a storage capacity of 7400 tons.
- Conveyors ("seed loop chains") from the silos to the seed press, approximately 160m in length.
- Four 20 kilolitre rainwater harvesting tanks.
- Three additional 100 kilolitre processed oil storage tanks.
- The footprint of the Phase 2 infrastructure will be approximately 716m².

The construction of Phases 1 and 2 commenced in June 2021, to enable the urgent installation of grain storage facilities to accommodate the 2021 canola grain harvest. Phases 1 and 2 did not constitute any listed activities in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). For operational purposes, Phases 1 and 2 can operate independently of Phase 3.

Phase 3:

Phase 3 entails the installation of infrastructure to enable the chemical extraction of oil.

One 3.5 ton per hour boiler, cooling towers of 3m in height, and a conveyor ("loop chain") from the seed press to the extraction plant will be installed.

A new factory shop, warehouse, chemical extraction plant and a waste water (wash water) treatment plant of approximately 24 000 litres per day capacity, discharging to municipal sewer, will be constructed.

Three 23m³ capacity underground hexane storage tanks will be installed. The footprint of Phase 3 will be approximately 1017m² and will be on the very southern side of Erf No. 4131, and also on the southern Erf No. 586.

The chemical extraction plant and hexane storage tanks will be situated at least 10m from the watercourse. Equipment that uses hexane will be located in the solvent extraction plant within a bunded area connected to a sump where any spillages will be contained. The hexane storage and handling infrastructure will be designed and installed according to the relevant SANS/NFPA codes and all other applicable regulations relating to Hazchem storage and handling infrastructure.

Monitoring wells will be installed up and down gradient of the chemical extraction plant and tank farm. Groundwater will be monitored bi-annually during the wet and dry season. Leak detection systems will be installed in accordance with SANS/NFPA standards and industry best practice.

The proposed development will connect to the municipal bulk engineering services network. Storm water, effluent and sewerage will discharge to the municipal system. Electricity will be supplied by the Swartland Municipality.

Access:

The trucks travelling to and from the site will utilise the Piketberg Road/N7 intersection to access River Street and will not enter and exit River Street via the Lang Street/Main Street intersection.

"No-Go" Alternative:

This alternative entails not expanding the seed storage capacity and oil processing plant. This alternative was not deemed as preferred as canola growers will potentially have a product that is not marketable, and which may go to waste. Specialist structures for the storage of the seed directly after harvest are needed, and the lack of infrastructure at South African ports makes exporting the canola very difficult.

A lack of sufficient local grain processing facilities can also adversely impact the agricultural supply chain as farmers could be forced to produce wheat only, thus applying mono culture practices. This has been proven to be less profitable and sustainable, since resistance to pesticides and herbicides starts to develop. In addition, recent trends in canola oil prices (2021/2022), have rendered the holder's Moorreesburg cold processing plant unviable. The hot pressing plant that has recently been installed, has also been rendered unviable due to oil price trends. The chemical extraction plant is thus essential for the economic viability of the Moorreesburg facility.

The proposed development will thus augment the economic activities and the benefits to the holder and creation of jobs would not be realised. The "no-go" alternative is therefore not warranted.

3. Impacts, assessment and mitigation measures

3.1 Activity Need and Desirability

Southern Oil is in the process of applying for the consolidation and rezoning of Erven 6491 and 586 to Industrial Zone 3: Risk Zone, to accommodate the chemical extraction plant. Consolidated Erf No. No. 6491 is zoned and used for General Industry, *i.e.*, Industrial Zone 2 in terms of the Swartland Municipality's Planning By-law (2019).

On 22 October 2021, the Swartland Municipality approved a departure from the 21m height restriction applicable to Erf No. 6491, to allow for the construction of the 29m high silos.

A part of the chemical extraction plant will be situated on Erf No. 586. This erf is currently zoned and used for residential purposes. Although the house will only be altered in minimal ways, the erf must be rezoned for industrial use, *i.e.*, Industrial Zone 3: Risk Industry, to accommodate the chemical extraction plant.

The expansion of the plant represents an additional 32 direct jobs at the plant, as well as tax revenue. The additional production opportunity will also create numerous jobs

along the supply chain, while the products produced replace imports, all benefitting the local economy.

The Canola Development Trust owns 15% of the shares of Southern Oil through the Canola Development Company. The beneficiaries of this Trust are permanent employees of farmers producing canola. The mandate of the Trust is to support development of the families of farm workers with the primary focus on education. The Trust is currently busy with intervention in literacy at rural schools in the region.

3.2 Biophysical impacts

Erf No. 4131 is already developed for Southern Oil's cold pressing canola oil plant and Erf No. 586 is developed for residential purposes. The site is transformed and situated within an urban area. No significant impacts on biophysical elements are anticipated as a result of the development, as the site is completely transformed.

3.3 Freshwater impacts:

An Aquatic Compliance Statement dated May 2021, was compiled by Confluent Environmental, to assess the potential freshwater impacts of the proposed development.

The Moorreesburg Spruit flows along the western boundary of Erven 6491 and 586. The watercourse is classified as a non-perennial river, receiving only seasonal flow during the winter rainfall months. The section of the river that flows through Moorreesburg appears to have been straightened in the past and resembles more a canal than a natural river. The river flows through the industrial section of the town and many properties adjacent to river have been developed for industrial purposes.

Standing pools of water were observed which are associated with dense stands of *Typha capensis*. There are indications that the river has been excavated in the past and piles of stockpiled soil/sediment were observed along the top of the banks of the river. The river receives storm water runoff from the town, which has caused localised erosion of the bed and banks of the channel. The combination of storm water input, excavation of sediment and straightening of the channel has resulted in a narrow, deep channel with steeply sloped banks. Colonisation of the river with *Typha capensis* has occurred due to localised areas of inundation of water caused by obstructions in the river bed (*i.e.*, low-level weirs) and high levels of litter were observed in the river channel. Given the very close proximity of several industrial developments along the course of the river, as well as channel modifications that have occurred, there is no riparian zone along the river reach running through the town Moorreesburg.

The present ecological state ("PES") of the watercourse is largely modified (PES D) and a large loss of natural habitat, biota and basic ecosystem functions has occurred instream and in the riparian zone.

The Ecological Importance and Sensitivity of the Moorreesburg Spruit is low. This is primarily due to the river being non-perennial and being modified to the extent that it offers little with respect to hosting a diverse array of habitats and associated rare/endangered or unique fauna. The river's main sensitivity is related to its relatively small size, making it sensitive to changes in flow and water quality. It's importance as a migration route is limited due to the fact that it is a first order stream delineation in the headwaters of its quaternary catchment.

A 10m buffer will be established between the river and the site. This buffer is considered adequate considering the modified state of the watercourse, the industrial land use of the area and the flat slope of the site. There is, however, insufficient space for all phases of the development to fall outside of the 10m buffer and the silos and oil cake bunker will occur within the 10m buffer. The oilcake is used as a protein source in animal feed and poses no risk to the watercourse.

Given the highly modified state of the Moorreesburg Spruit, it is highly unlikely that it will be further modified by the construction or operation of the silos and oilcake bunker. Potential impacts associated with this infrastructure will be sufficiently mitigated to pose a low risk to the watercourse. The construction activities will take place within the site's boundaries and certain construction activities will take place outside of the 10m buffer. However, the boundary wall of the extraction plant will be located just within the 10m buffer, which is considered acceptable.

Since the solvent plant and underground hexane storage tanks pose a comparatively higher risk to the watercourse, the infrastructure will be located outside of the 10m buffer to provide extra protection to the watercourse. The implementation of mitigation measures will result in a low risk during the operational phase.

Given the highly modified nature of the watercourse, the risk of construction and operational phase activities associated with the development is considered low. The mitigation measures recommended by the specialist have been included in the EMPr.

3.4 Visual impacts:

A Visual Impact Assessment Report dated August 2021 and Addendum dated 01 July 2022, were compiled by Megan Anderson Landscape Architect, to assess the potential visual impacts of the proposed development.

The scenic resources of the area can be described as rural, with a rural town and predominantly rural orientated industrial development and are rated moderate to high. The viewshed is defined by the higher lying hills that form the part of the Moorreesburg Spruit catchment area. The viewshed extends approximately:

- 2.5km to the north;
- 1.25km to the west;
- 4-5km to the south; and
- 7km to Klipkop in the east.

The Zone of Visual Influence is reduced by buildings surrounding the site, development and trees as follows:

- 500m to the south;
- More than 1km to the east;
- 500m to the north; and
- Between 200m and 500m to the west.

Parts of the site will be obscured by trees, landforms or buildings or any combination thereof. The proposed development will be visible from a 200m section of Royal Street, and adjacent residential erven, approximately 50m from the site.

Highly sensitive receptors include:

- Residential areas: the residential areas surrounding the site to the west, southwest and northeast.
- Scenic routes:

- The N7 Cape - Namibia Tourist Route east of the site, between 1.5 and 5km from the site; and
- The R311 is indicated in the Provincial Spatial Development Framework as a provincial secondary scenic route, 500m south of the site.

Moderate sensitivity receptors include places of work on adjacent properties and industries. Low sensitivity receptors include industrial areas within the area. The receptors within the Zone of Visual Influence are inclusive of those rated as low to highly sensitive.

The site is situated on the lower lying river plain. The surrounding hills provide screening of the proposed development from distant areas. Clumps and rows of large exotic trees on adjacent erven, along the Moorreesburg Spruit and in the surrounding area provide further screening. The Visual Absorption Capacity of the site is moderate, e.g. partial screening by topography and vegetation.

The proposed development will have a moderate visual intrusion, *i.e.*, it partially fits into the surroundings, but is clearly noticeable.

The visual impacts will be as a result of the partially developed site being extended; an increase in the heights and footprints of the existing buildings; and new development (silo's and buildings) occurring. These will result in a change in the visual character of the site as well as the 'momentary' obstruction of some views of the Church and Municipal Buildings from Piketberg Way, and the northern entrance road into Moorreesburg from the N7.

The *Eucalyptus* tree will be retained to mitigate the visual impact of the silos from sensitive receptors/residents to the south. Since the tree is considered to be a hazard to the proposed oil press and control room in the southern section of the site, it has been requested that the tree be removed. As such, the holder consulted a Landscape Architect and an Arborist to assess if other solutions could be found.

The Landscape Architect suggested crown and root pruning of the *Eucalyptus* tree and new tree planting which in time, will partially screen the silos to the south. The Landscape Architect indicated that the existing *Eucalyptus* tree is approximately 35m in height and that no new planting will ever be able to create this level of high screening.

The holder subsequently appointed another Landscape Architect, to compile a Landscape Plan, which was commented on by the Visual Specialist, who accepted the amendments to the Plan.

The *Eucalyptus* tree is important in the visual absorption and visual intrusion aspects of the proposed development and screening from sensitive receptors. Retaining the *Eucalyptus* tree is important in mitigating the following identified visual impacts:

- Visibility of site and silos during construction;
- Visual intrusion of large silo structures on a few adjacent residential erven along Royal Street to southwest and west; and
- Visual intrusion of night lighting.

The immediate removal of the *Eucalyptus* tree prior to or during construction, will result in the significance of the visual impacts reverting back from low-medium to medium. The *Eucalyptus* tree will be pruned initially, new trees planted and when these trees are established, the *Eucalyptus* tree can be removed 10 years after planting of the new

trees. The *Eucalyptus* tree may be pruned by an experienced arborist during construction to overcome the hazard to the oil press and control room. Once the proposed trees to the south are established (10 years minimum), the *Eucalyptus* tree may be removed. The maintenance of the *Eucalyptus* tree will continue until its removal, 10 years after planting new trees to its south and west.

The proposed development will have a medium to low visual impact with the implementation of mitigation measures. With the maturing of the planted trees, the proposed development will not detract negatively from the highly rated townscape scene. The mitigation measures recommended by the specialist have been included in the EMPr.

3.5 Noise impacts:

A Noise Compliance Statement dated May 2021, was compiled by Soundscape Consulting (Pty) Ltd., to assess the potential noise impacts of the proposed development.

The closest residential noise-sensitive receptors are situated to the west and south of the site. There are residential buildings directly south of Erf No. 586 along River Street. To the west, the closest residences are those along Royal Street that are within 30 to 70m of Erf No. 4131. Areas to the north and east include municipal services, commercial, and industrial activities.

There are no naturally occurring noise barriers or topographical features between the site and sensitive receptors. The only barriers that currently provide some acoustic shielding are buildings along the eastern edge of the site and a concrete wall along a portion of the northern site boundary. Some residential properties in the area have boundary walls that may provide some acoustic shielding from the proposed development.

The ground cover which consists mostly of built-up areas, concrete pads, roads and open areas with sparse vegetation is considered acoustically hard and generally not conducive to noise attenuation.

The acoustic climate of the area is currently affected by:

- Traffic, both heavy and light vehicles, along several main roads including the R311 and Main Street, as well as roads around the site, including River Street to the east, Royal Street to the east, and Station Street to the south of Erf No. 4131.
- Existing commercial and industrial activities including SOILL's existing cold press canola oil processing plant on Erf No. 4131. Noise sources include driving equipment such as pumps, fans and compressors, metal conveyor systems, and cooling systems as well as traffic, and on-site vehicle movement and reverse warning signals.
- Community noise including pedestrian traffic, kids playing, church bells, barking dogs etc.
- Natural sources such as wind, birds, insects, and frogs (observed during calmer periods in road traffic).

It is therefore likely that the noise rating levels in the area will be close to those typically found in urban districts (with workshops and main roads).

Some of the noisiest activities and equipment will be contained within the building structure situated along the eastern edge of the site. This will ensure maximum

separation distance between the processing plant activities and receptors to the west. Building façades will also provide acoustic shielding.

The location of silos 1 to 5 along the western edge of Erf No. 4131 may be of concern. Although the silos will provide acoustic shielding between the seed receiving area and residences to the west, the conveyors at the top of these silos may result in noise impacts at these receptors.

Conventional noise barriers such as a berm or boundary wall will not be effective in mitigating these noise sources given their height above ground level. Drag link conveyors running on HDPE wear strips, which will eliminate the steel-on-steel contact of conveyors currently in use, will be installed. The silo conveyors will also only run during daytime hours. The administration building in the southern portion of the site will also provide some acoustic shielding to receptors directly south of Erf No. 586.

The extent of nuisance impacts is expected to be local and only in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Given the low sensitivity of the receiving area, and the closest receptors already being affected by existing traffic noise, industrial, and community noise, the intensity of impacts are expected to be low. Noise will be generated on-site and off-site impacts are unavoidable. The degree to which such impacts can be managed is, however, high.

Based on community noise sources and expected noise impact at nearby residential receptors, the area is of low sensitivity from an environmental noise impact perspective. The mitigation measures recommended by the specialist have been included in the EMPr.

3.6 Traffic impacts:

A Traffic Impact Statement dated 10 August 2021, was compiled by EFG Engineers (Pty) Ltd., to assess the potential traffic impacts of the proposed development.

The peak hour traffic along the MR230 represents total two-way traffic on a typical weekday and is considered to be low. The peak hour for truck traffic along the MR230 is between 10:00am and 11:00am, which do not coincide with the commuter morning and afternoon peaks.

During harvest time, the daily trip distribution might be more evenly spread over an eight-hour work day, but could include peaks at times. The maximum hourly number of truck trips at the Phase 2 full development is anticipated to be no more than 5 trucks in and 5 trucks out during harvest time over a 6-week period only.

It is anticipated that the number of staff will increase from 13 to approximately 40 staff members. However, no more than ten private vehicles for staff is anticipated, with the remainder using public transport or non-motorised modes. Therefore, approximately ten staff trips (inbound) will apply during the morning peak period with ten staff trips (outbound) during the afternoon peak period.

Based on a maximum of 9500m² Gross Leasable Area ("GLA"), the number of peak hour trips can therefore be in the range of 48-86 peak hour trips with a typical split of approximately 70:30 in the morning peak hour and vice versa in the afternoon peak hour. The peak hour trip generation is anticipated to be well below that generated by a maximum development right of 9500m² GLA. Detail capacity analysis is therefore not deemed necessary.

Approximately 85% of truck loads can be assigned to the north, south and eastern directions to/from the site with approximately 15% serving the areas to the west. Truck tracking was tested to find the safest route for trucks to enter/exit the site when arriving from the west along Lang Street (R311); from the east along Lang Street (R311 coming from the N7) or from the east along Piketberg Road (coming from the N7).

It was found that it is not ideal for trucks to take a route via the Lang Street (R311)/Main Street signalised intersection, as sight lines are very limited and the large truck movements cannot be safely accommodated as part of the signal phasing. Large trucks typically require more than one lane width when making turning movements. This is therefore not considered to be the safest waypoint when travelling to/from the east or west along Lang Street (R311) to/from Erf No. 4131.

Since the Lang Street (R311)/Main Street intersection is not considered an ideal waypoint, it is not sensible to opt for a left-turn from River Street via the River Street/Piketberg Road intersection when exiting the site, even though this intersection is currently daily used by similar sized trucks.

The safest route to follow at all times is mainly via the Piketberg Road/N7 intersection and not the signalised Lang Street (R311)/Main Street intersection through the Central Business District as it is not ideal to permit large trucks to occupy two lane widths to do turning movements in conjunction with the intersection's signal phasing.

3.7 Storm water impacts:

A 1:100 Year Flood Line Determination Report dated September 2021, was compiled by Umvoto Africa (Pty) Ltd. According to the report, the 1:100-year flood line will be contained in the existing watercourse channel and will not breach the banks and inundate any portion of Erf No. 4131.

Existing storm water infrastructure is located towards the northern side of the site with a 600mm diameter pre-cast concrete pipe that conveys storm water to an outlet structure (with headwall) that ultimately discharges into the existing watercourse. Although the storm water pipe passes through the site, storm water runoff from the site does not enter this pipe. This storm water pipe services kerb inlets identified in the northerly direction in River Street. A grid inlet was identified in River Street directly in front of the development capturing the runoff accumulated street-side.

The paved areas in the southern portion of the site will be drained by grid inlets and the catchment of the weighbridge will be drained by kerb inlets. The remaining paved areas will be drained by kerb inlets and a grid inlet. The area at the seed pit/silos will be paved for forklift access, and will be drained by square grid inlets.

The storm water entering the system will flow towards Junction Box 5, from where the storm water will undergo separation to remove contaminants via the storm water separator structure. From here, the storm water will flow to Junction Box 4, where it will link to the exiting 600mm storm water pipe. The flow will be combined with the flow from offsite areas to ultimately be discharged at the outlet into the watercourse. The existing 600mm storm water pipe has been re-aligned slightly towards the erf boundary to accommodate the foundations of the silo.

The storm water separator will remove possible contaminants (grit, sand, oils, grease, etc.) from the runoff, prior to discharge into the watercourse. The storm water separator incorporates a settling chamber with an overflow weir, to remove larger solid particles

e.g. sand and grit. There is a secondary chamber with the pipe outlet intake below the water level, to remove floating contaminants such as oils and grease. The structure can be accessed via three covers in the roof slab for periodic cleaning.

The proposed storm water system is adequate for a 1:10 Return Period event. Although the off-site upstream flow from River Street entering the existing 600mm pipe is unknown, there will be enough available spare capacity to accommodate the additional flow from the site, as it is common practice to design storm water systems with some spare capacity.

3.8 Dust impacts

Potential dust impacts are anticipated during the construction phase. However, no significant potential dust impacts are anticipated as these impacts will be mitigated by the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the EMPr.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts:

- Potential visual, traffic and noise impacts; and
- Potential impacts on the watercourses.

Positive impacts:

- Employment opportunities will be created during the construction and operational phases of the development;
- Increased canola processing capacity for the holder; and
- Contribution to the local economy.

National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Act Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all Organs of State, serve as guidelines by reference to which any Organ of State must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), *inter alia*, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between Organs of State through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the competent authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the NEMA and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

You are reminded of your general duty of care towards the environment in terms of Section 28(1) of the NEMA which states: "Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to

prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment."

-----END-----