



environment, forestry
& fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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TO	ALL STAKEHOLDERS
FROM	MR. SABELO MALAZA CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS
SUBJECT	TIMEFRAMES PRESCRIBED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, SECTION 24G AND INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS DURING THE PERIOD INCLUDING 15 DECEMBER 2020 TO 05 JANUARY 2021
DATE OF LETTER	23 November 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) wishes to inform all stakeholders of the provision in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations 2014, as amended, of the mandatory exclusion from 15 December to 05 January. Regulation 3(2) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, states that *"For any action contemplated in terms of these Regulations for which a timeframe is prescribed, the period of 15 December to 5 January must be excluded in the reckoning of days."*

Kindly be informed that the Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations in the DEFF **will not be receiving** applications for Environmental Authorisations (EA) in terms of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended; applications for amendments to EA's and Environmental Management Programme in terms of Chapter 5 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended; or any other application/approval required in terms of the Regulations during the period of **15 December 2020 until 05 January 2021**. The above also applies in terms of NEMA Section 24G applications.

Decisions/comments on applications and their associated notifications will also not be issued between 15 December 2020 and 05 January 2021.

Any timeframes associated with the public participation process must exclude the period 15 December 2020 to 05 January 2021. The timeframe of 30 days for all Interested and Affected Parties to comment on applications must also exclude this period. In accordance with Regulation 3(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, only in exceptional circumstances and if agreed to by the Department, may the applicant conduct any public participation during this period.

The following applies to the online system for receiving of EIA applications (Novell S Flir), as well as the EIA Applications mailbox:

- The mailbox and online system (Novell S Flir), will be closed from 16h00 on 14 December 2020 till 08h00 on 06 January 2021.
- Stakeholders will not be able to upload documents to the online system (Novell S Flir), during this period. The system will be closed and no passwords will be issued.
- The mailbox will not process any emails during this period, and any emails sent during this period will only be considered on 06 January 2021. You are therefore requested to only submit emails after the closure period, to ensure that your requests are attended to accordingly. This will prevent emails/requests being unaccounted for during this period.

M.S

The CD: IEA of the DEFF will reopen for submission of applications and/or reports, and will only consider emails on the EIA Applications mailbox from the 06 January 2021.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Date: 23/11/2020