

**25 February 2021**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **NERSA APPROVES GENERATION LICENCE FOR GFI JOINT VENTURE HOLDINGS PROPRIETARY LIMITED AND GOLD FIELDS OPERATIONS LIMITED**

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) announced that, at its meeting held on 25 February 2021, the Energy Regulator approved the issuing of a generation licence to GFI Joint Venture Holdings Proprietary Limited and Gold Fields Operations Limited (South Deep Joint Venture) to operate a 40MW solar photovoltaic (PV) plant. The generation facility will be constructed in Westonaria, south-west of Johannesburg in the Gauteng Province.

NERSA received the application on 18 June 2020. The application could not be processed within the required timelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the application was subjected to public participation process with a virtual public hearing conducted on 3 December 2021.

The 40MW solar PV plant will be constructed on the same site as the South Deep Gold Mine and all power generated by the plant will be consumed by the mine.

There have been unverified and misleading media reports that NERSA has delayed processing this application since 2017. It must be indicated that South Deep Gold Mine submitted its first application for a generation licence of a 40MW solar plant in 2017. However, this application could not be processed because it was not compliant with the requirements of the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006. The application did not have Ministerial approval to deviate from the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), as was required by section 10(2)(g) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006. South Deep Gold Mine also did not have environmental authorisation as required by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998. NERSA engaged with and guided South Deep Gold Mine on how to ensure that the application is compliant with the legal requirements to enable NERSA to process the application. In this regard, several consultation meetings were held between NERSA and South Deep Gold Mine.

---

#### **Regulator Members:**

Ms MMD Nkomo (Deputy Chairperson)

\*Mr N Gumede \*Ms N Maseti \*Mr MW Mkhize Mr S Mokoena Ms Z Mpungose Mr FK Sibanda

\*Full-Time Regulator Members

On 1 February 2020, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy issued approval for deviation from the IRP for self-generation projects of any capacity. Following this approval, South Deep Joint Venture submitted a compliant application on 18 June 2020. The application was processed through NERSA's regulatory processes as indicated in the table below.

<b>Activities in processing the South Deep Joint Venture licence application</b>		<b>Date</b>
1.	Receipt of the licence application	18 June 2020
2.	Letter of acknowledgement sent to the applicant	19 June 2020
3.	Legal advice sought from NERSA's Legal Advisory Services (LAS) Department on the licensing of a joint venture (JV)	30 June 2020
4.	Correspondence relating to the JV status (legal advice) sent to the applicant	3 July 2020
5.	Revised application submitted by the applicant	13 July 2020
6.	Meeting between NERSA and South Deep (requested by the applicant) to clarify the legal status of the JV	17 July 2020
7.	NERSA requested the applicant to publish adverts for the application in 2 newspapers	20 July 2020
8.	Confirmation for the applicant's notice of the application and copies of the adverts were submitted by the applicant	8 October 2020
9.	NERSA published notices of the public hearing	25 Nov 2020
10.	Public Hearing	3 Dec 2020
11.	The applicant submitted the Cost Estimate Letter	2 February 2021
12.	Electricity Subcommittee recommended approval by the Energy Regulator	5 February 2021
13.	Energy Regulator approval	25 February 2021

**End.**

**Enquiries:**

**Charles Hlebela**

**Head of Communications**

**Tel: 012 401 4768**

**Cell: 083 646 8280**