

Eric Torr
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1618
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Minister N.Pandor
Dept of Science and Technology
Private Bag X727
Pretoria

Dear Minister,
Thank you for your rather belated letter.

I must also add that your people did not do such a fantastic job with the so called workshops as the address that you gave for me on your reply was completely incorrect, yet I did give my address on each and every workshop. The issue on incompetence of your people, however is not up for discussion here.

Firstly let me remind you what my letter was all about:-

1. No proper Environmental Impact Assessment has been completed on the project except for the initial one done by SEFSA. The SEFSA study does not include the whole of the area concerned. As you are aware, before any project of this nature may commence at all, a full and comprehensive EIA has to be completed, followed by public participation and then an Act may be promulgated.
2. What has happened to all our objections that were sent to you after the SKA workshops were done? You have not answered a single objection at all!
3. The CSIR study showed that the water usage per day would be 940KL of water. This is a drought stricken area and there is no possibility of supplying that sort of water. Where do you propose this water will come from?
4. A farmer in the area of Meerkat, has identified up to 22 rare and endangered species of plants. This was not fully addressed in the SEA done by the CSIR at all.
5. The study done by the CSIR is a direct conflict of interest, namely that you elect the board for the CSIR. The SEA is therefore not valid as it is one sided. We require the study to be redone by an independent body agreeable by all. The same applies to the required EIA.
6. We also require a full disclosure of the full project. At present the SKA is not forthcoming in this regard and we feel that our Constitutional rights are being ignored in total.
7. The future of the immediate communities is not being addressed at all and we are not accepting the off-hand manner at which the current SKA management is dealing with this problem.
8. Cell phone communication has been lost throughout most of the area. It was replaced with a VOX system; however this does not resolve the problem at all. Which towns will be affected by loss of cell phones? Will more areas be affected by cell phone loss with phase? We need answers urgently.

9. The 120,000 hectare area earmarked for “so called game reserve” as depicted by Rob Adam. If the waters in the area are going to be shut down as described in the CSIR SEA report, how will it be possible to use this area for that purpose, or has another purpose (such as the dumping of radioactive material and waste from future power stations), been planned for this area?

These issues are starting to reach boiling point and need to be resolved as soon as possible. I therefore seriously suggest that you make time in your schedule and come to the area so that these and other problems may be addressed. Please note that the issue of a full EIA as stated in 1. Above is not up for any negotiation. We are not going to allow SKA any further work into the spirals etc., if this issue is not attended to.

Should no answer be received addressing the above issues within 30 days of this letter, it will automatically be assumed that you have no interest in the affected community at all and this will then be conveyed to the community as such.

Of the above, Madam Minister, you have not answered ONE SINGLE ISSUE AT ALL!

I repeat that we will not allow SKA any further work into the spirals etc., unless these issue are attended to.

This letter will be conveyed back to the community as well as your answer.

Yours Sincerely

Eric Torr