

Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Najah Ben Jeddou

Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement

Najah.BenJeddou@westerncape.gov.za Tel: 021 483 8314

**REFERENCE:** 14/1/1/E2/9/9/3/0808/23

**ENQUIRIES:** Najah Ben Jeddou

BY EMAIL: remkuil@ruens.co.za

Mr Johannes du Toit

Portion 7 of Farm Rietfontein No. 259

Caledon

7230

## **COMPLIANCE NOTICE**

Dear Sir

COMPLIANCE NOTICE IN TERMS OF SECTION 31L (3) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT NO.107 OF 1998 ("NEMA")

- The Department's Pre-Compliance Notice dated 15 March 2023 and the project schedule submitted by Lornay Environmental Consulting dated 22 March 2024 has reference.
- 2. Having considered the evidence before me, I Achmad Bassier, in my capacity as an Environmental Management Inspector Grade 1, hereby issues Mr Johannes du Toit with a Compliance Notice in terms of section 31L of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 ("NEMA").

Compliance Notice

3. This Compliance Notice relates to the non-compliance with the provisions of

section 24F of the NEMA and serves to hold you responsible to comply with the

aforesaid project schedule.

Details of conduct constituting non-compliance

4. During an investigation into allegations of the commencement of a listed

activity in contravention of section 24F of the National Environmental

Management Act, 1998 ("NEMA"), a site inspection was conducted at Portion

7 of Farm Rietfontein 259, Caledon by an Environmental Management

Directorate: Environmental Inspectors from the Department's

Enforcement on 15 November 2023, which confirmed that you have

commenced with the clearing of indigenous vegetation without Environmental

Authorisation ("EA")

5. As such, you are hereby instructed to:

Adhere to the section 24G project schedule and specified timeframes as

received on 22 March 2024 (attached hereto) and confirm such in writing

within 7 (seven) calendar days of receipt of this Compliance Notice.

Approval of the section 24G application by the Department does not remedy 6.

the unlawful commencement of the above activities, which remain unlawful

in terms of section 49A(1) (a) and/or (d) of the NEMA, until such time that

environmental authorization is granted.

7. Notwithstanding the section 24G application, the Department may

commence criminal proceedings should circumstances so require.

Inform the Department of any delays/changes in respect of the section 24G PS 8.

on the following details; Ms Zaidah Toefy (Head of Sub-Directorate:

Rectification) email: Zaidah.Toefy@westerncape.gov.za and Ms Najah Ben

Page 2 of 5

Compliance Notice

Jeddou (Directorate: Environmental Law Enforcement) email:

Najah.BenJeddou@westerncape.gov,za

**Varying this Compliance Notice** 

9. <u>If you would like me to vary this Compliance Notice or extend the period to</u>

which it relates, you may make representations to me, in writing, to do so.

Failure to comply with this Compliance Notice (section 31N of the NEMA) and

related offences in terms of the NEMA

10. In terms of section 49A(1)(a) of the NEMA it is an offence to commence a listed

activity without environmental authorisation. A person convicted of such an

offence is liable to a fine not exceeding R10 million or to imprisonment for a

period not exceeding 10 years, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

11. Furthermore, failure to comply with a Compliance Notice is an offence in terms

of section 49A(1)(k). A person convicted of such an offence is liable to a fine

not exceeding R5 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years,

and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding

R10 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, and in both

instances to both such fine and such imprisonment.

12. Any non-compliance with the Compliance Notice must be reported to the

Minister, who may:

12.1 revoke any permit or authorisation to which this Compliance Notice

relates; and/or

12.2 take any steps necessary to ensure compliance with the provisions of the

law, permit or authorisation to which this Compliance Notice relates and

recover from you the cost of doing so.

Page 3 of 5

Compliance Notice

Procedure for lodging an objection to this Compliance Notice (section 31L and

31M of the NEMA)

If you wish to lodge an objection to this Compliance Notice, you may do so by

making representations, in writing, to the Provincial Minister of Environmental

Affairs and Development Planning ("the Minister") within 30 days of receipt of

this Compliance Notice.

14. You may also make representations, in writing, to the Minister to suspend the

operation of this Compliance Notice pending finalisation of the objection.

15. The objection must be in writing and forwarded to the Appeal Administrator,

Mr Marius Venter at the contact details below and must be accompanied by

a statement detailing the grounds of the objection and supporting

documentation, if any.

By post:

Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental

Affairs and Development Planning

Private Bag X9186

**CAPE TOWN** 

8000

By facsimile: (021) 483 4174

By hand:

Attention: Mr Marius Venter (Tel: 021 483 3721)

**Room 809** 

8th Floor Utilitas Building, 1 Dorp Street, Cape Town, 8001

By email:

DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za

Page 4 of 5

16. Irrespective of any representations you may make to me or to the Minister, you must comply with this Compliance Notice within the time period stated in the Compliance Notice, unless the Minister agrees to suspend the operation of this Compliance Notice.

By

Mr. A Bassier

**Director: Environmental Law Enforcement** 

Grade 1 Environmental Management Inspector

Date: 03/06/2024

Cc:

Ms Zaidah Toefy (Directorate: Rectification) Email: <u>Zaidah.Toefy@westerncape.gov.za</u>

Ms Michelle Naylor (Lornay Environmental Consulting) Email: michelle@lornay.co.za