

**Comments received prior to the release of the Draft Basic Assessment Report and during the initial Public Participation 30-day comment period**

Organisation	Person	Issue or comment raised (see Appendix C4 & C5 of the Draft Basic Assessment report)	Addressing or incorporation of issue or comment
Eskom	John Geeringh	<p>The following correspondence was received from the stakeholder via email on 20 July 2022. This was in response to the notification of the Basic Assessment process and submission of the Background Information Document:</p> <p>Please send me a KMZ file of the affected property and proposed development area, as well as the grid connection.</p> <p>Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes and the setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments.</p> <p>Further comment was received by the stakeholder via email on 20 July 2022 stating:</p> <p>This development will definitely block access to the substation from the west for any future power lines, I suggest the developer meet with Eskom Distribution to determine the viability of their development as well as the future expansion of the substation and access to the substation if they have not done so. The substation in question is a 66kV substation and may not even have the capacity to connect and evacuate the power from the IPP. Attached a list of Eskom Dx LD Managers. Please ask the developer to contact the relevant manager for the area.</p>	<p>Environamics submitted the requested KMZ to the stakeholder via email on 20 July 2022. It was confirmed by the EAP that the Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes and the setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments have been submitted to the Applicant for their attention and records.</p> <p>Furthermore, Environamics confirmed on 20 July that the comments raised have been submitted to the Applicant.</p> <p>The Applicant distributed an email to the relevant Eskom official on 27 July 2022 regarding the issues raised by Mr. Geeringh. To date no response has been received from Eskom in this regard.</p>

Globeleq	Marli Schoeman	<p>In an email dated 01 August 2022, it was requested by the I&amp;AP that specific individuals be registered on the project database. These include:</p> <p>Jacob Mbiza (Site Manager) and Willie van Niekerk (Asset Director) of the existing Boshof solar Plant.</p>	<p>Environamics confirmed via email on 02 August 2022 that the relevant I&amp;APs have been registered on the project database and will therefore be receiving further project related information and notification in the future.</p>
Kruhan Trust	Johann Neethling	<p>The following comments were received from the affected landowner via email on 15 July 2022. This was in response to the notification of the Basic Assessment process and submission of the Background Information Document:</p> <p>As die plaas Merriesfontein Nr 1725 se eienaar wat 'n wildboerdery op die eiendom bedryf sal ek graag as 'n I&amp;AP wil registreer en deel te wees van die beplannings fase tot die projek.</p> <p>Die volgende sake is van belang op die oomblik :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Dat die terrein eerstens omhein moet word voordat met konstruksie begin word sodat die wild nie beseer word op die terrein nie.</li> <li>2) Dat die nodige riglyne en voorsorg maatreels in plek sal wees ten opsigte van veldbrande wat mag ontstaan. Die hele omgewing boer met skaap en bees op natuurlike weiding wat met veldbrande groot skade ly.</li> <li>3) Dat bestaande gruisgroewe en ondergrondse water in die konstruksie fase gebruik sal word.</li> </ol>	<p>Environamics confirmed received of the comments from the landowner via email on 02 August 2022.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the necessary guidelines and mitigation measures will be included in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). Refer to Appendix E of the draft Basic Assessment Report that has been made available for a 30-day review and comment period.</p>

		<p>Hiermee bevestig ek dat geen mense op die eiendom woonagtig is nie. Die bestuurder van die boerdery is woonagtig op die aangrensende plaas.</p> <p><b><u>Translation:</u></b></p> <p>As owner of the farm Merriesfontein No. 1725 I would like to register as an I&amp;AP to participate in the planning phase of the project. Gamefarming is being undertaken on the property.</p> <p>The following issues are relevant at this stage:</p> <p>1) The site must be fenced prior to the commencement of construction in order to protect the wild from injury present in the property.</p> <p>2) The necessary guidelines and measures must be in place for the prevention of fires. The area is used by farmers for sheep and cattle grazing on natural areas and fires will cause significant damage.</p> <p>3) The existing gravel pits and underground water must be used for the construction phase.</p> <p>I confirm that no people are living on the property. The farm manager lives on an adjacent property.</p>	
<p>Mvelaphanda Trading (Openserve representative)</p>	<p>Lehlohonolo Roestof</p>	<p>The following correspondence was received from the stakeholder via email on 01 August 2022. This was in response to the notification of the Basic Assessment process and submission of the Background Information Document:</p>	<p>Approval for the Castor Solar PV Project is noted, as well as all requirements stipulated that will need to be complied with by the Applicant.</p>

		<p>Approval is granted, subject to the following conditions, as per attached drawings supplied, our Client (Openserve) infrastructure will be affected as indicated in GREEN. Our Client (Openserve) infrastructure must be regarded as approximate only. We did our utmost to ensure that we indicate our route as accurate as possible and should you discover any of our cables that is not on the sketch please stop and contact us immediately to arrange a site meeting. In the event that our cables are exposed and damaged/stolen by a third party the damages will be repaired at the customer's account. Please make use of pilot holes in order not to damage our infrastructure. Therefore, any damages occurred during construction of work will be repaired at the customer's account. Consequently, the following conditions apply:</p> <p>Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 0543386501 / 0813626738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.</p> <p>A formal letter, dated 01 August 2022, also accompanied the email. The content of the letter is as follows:</p> <p>With reference to your above-mentioned application, I hereby inform you that our Client (Openserve) approves the proposed work indicated on your drawings in terms Section 29 of the Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005 as amended.</p>	
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South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Sityhilelo Ngcatsha	<p>The following interim comments were received from SAHRA. The letter is dated 27 July 2022. The content of the letter is as follows:</p> <p>Thank you for notifying the SAHRA on the proposed development of a photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of Farm Merriesfontein 1725 in Boshof within the Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.</p> <p>The project entails the generation of up to 20MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will be approximately 40 hectares.</p> <p>As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, the developer must undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA). The heritage specialist studies will be done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). This must include any other applicable heritage components. The</p>	<p>A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been undertaken for the Castor Solar PV Project by a suitably qualified heritage specialist. The HIA undertaken for the project is included as Appendix D5 of the draft Basic Assessment Report which has been released for the 30-day review and comment period. The HIA considered all possible heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted.</p> <p>The Heritage Impact Assessment (Appendix D5) has confirmed that the site proposed for the project is located within areas of zero to insignificant sensitivity from a palaeontological perspective, based on the PalaeoSensitivity Map of the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA). The full extent of the site is located within areas demarcated as Grey and therefore no palaeontological assessment is required. Based on the nature of the specialist field, i.e. palaeontology, it was deemed as sufficient to consider the desktop palaeontological assessment undertaken for the previous process (proposed Boshof – Les Marais / Buitefontein Solar Energy Facility Reference number 14/12/16/3/3/1/1090). This desktop study is</p>

		<p>HIA must be conducted as part of the EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.</p> <p>The archaeological component of the HIA should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a qualified archaeologist (see <a href="http://www.asapa.co.za">www.asapa.co.za</a> or <a href="http://www.aphp.org.za">www.aphp.org.za</a>).</p> <p>The proposed development area is located mostly within an area of insignificant sensitivity in terms of palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map, and a small portion of the development area is located within an area of high sensitivity. As such, a desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist (See <a href="https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html">https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html</a> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.</p>	<p>included as Appendix D6 of the draft Basic Assessment Report that has been made available for the 30-day review and comment period.</p> <p>All documents related to the Application for EA have been submitted to the project CaseID on SAHRIS for review and comment by SAHRA.</p>
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