



ENVIRO NAMICS

Environmental Consultants

NOTES OF THE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING FOR THE PROPOSED MAFADI SOLAR POWER PLANT, NEAR LOUIS TRICHARDT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Agenda: Pre-application Meeting (Ref.: 2022-09-0031)

Date: Friday, 14 October 2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Venue: MS Teams meeting

ATTENDEES

Tshepho Mamashela (Environmental Consultant with Environamics)

Lisa de Lange (Environmental Consultant with Environamics)

Yolande Scheepers (Environmental Consultant with Environamics)

Nico Venter (Subsolar)

Donné Krause (Subsolar)

Kgothatso Teffo (Subsolar)

Stephanie Fasaki (Subsolar)

Nyiko Nkosi (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE))

Zama Langa (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE))

Chantell Mabusela (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE))

Opening, welcome and attendance

Ms. Zama Langa welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their time. Introductions of the attendees were undertaken. A presentation was presented by Ms. Tshepho Mamashela and the content thereof is indicated below. The presentation has also been distributed to the attendees with the meeting notes.

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain confirmation and guidance from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) on the undertaking/submission of EIA application with multiple layout options.

Mafadi Solar Power Plant (SPP) - Project Description

- Development of an up to 150MW solar power plants on the Farm Langgedacht No. 1210:
- Same suite of independent specialists for this project:

- Ecological Fauna and Flora Habitat Survey
 - Avifaunal Impact Assessment
 - Soil, Land Capability and Agricultural Potential Study
 - Visual Impact Assessment
 - Social Impact Assessment
 - Heritage Impact Assessment
 - Paleontological Impact Assessment
 - Traffic Impact Assessment
- Not located within a REDZ or Strategic Transmission Corridor

Project Infrastructure

- Mafadi SPP:
 - PV Panel Array
 - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
 - Wiring to Inverters
 - Laydown areas;
 - Administration Office;
 - Switch gear and relay room;
 - Staff lockers and changing room;
 - Security control;
 - Operations & Maintenance (O&M) building;
 - Warehouse;
 - Roads; and
 - Fencing.
- Mafadi Grid Connection:
 - 132kV overhead power line to be connected via a loop-in loop-out (LILO) connection to the existing Eskom Tabor 275/132kV MTS Substation or Louis Trichardt - Tabor 132kV overhead Line or the Tabor - Flurian Tee 132kV Overhead Line.

EIA Process

- The solar development trigger listed activities in Listing Notice 1, 2 and 3 of the EIA Regs. and therefore, a full Scoping/EIA Process will be undertaken to obtain EA.
 - Not located within a REDZ.

Layout options

- Three layout options are proposed for the development which relate mainly to associated infrastructure including the substation, BESS, O&M, Laydown and construction camp. This is due to the uncertainties of whether Eskom will approve the grid connection via the existing Tabor 275/132kV MTS Substation or via a Loop-in Loop-out line to the existing Louis Trichardt - Tabor 132kV Overhead Line or the Tabor - Flurian Tee 132kV Overhead Line.
- The three layout options are situated in the same area of the development footprint; however, the associated infrastructures are moved within the larger area according to the possible grid connection. As a result, it was requested by Environamix whether a larger area that can accommodate any of the layout plans, can be authorised.
- If the competent authority grants the proposed development an environmental authorization, the developer will then be able to choose any of the layout plans based on the Eskom approval and ultimately the grid connection point in which the facility will connect.
- Confirmation of the following is required from the DFFE:
 - Authorisation of a larger area that can accommodate any of the proposed layout alternatives be approved to, so that upon Eskom's approval of the grid connection, the developer will be able to start without the need to follow the amendment process.

Access and roads

- There will be one temporary access and one permanent access at the proposed site. The temporary access will be used during the construction phase and therefore rehabilitated upon completion of the development.
- There might be a need in the future to develop a new access road.
- Confirmation of the following is required from the DFFE:
 - Whether the temporary access road must form part of the application/facility layout.
 - The process that will be followed for the development of a new access road.

Discussion

Mr Nico Venter of Subsolar shared his screen to display the three layout plan alternatives to the DFFE, and also explained what the alternatives entail.

The DFFE indicated the following:

Layout options

- No environmental authorisation can be granted without a specified layout plan that indicates all the associated infrastructure and their respective coordinates. The applicant must therefore choose a preferred layout option when lodging the EIA application. The authorised layout plan will still depend on the overall assessment of the application.
- A confirmation letter from Eskom needs to be obtained in terms of the grid connection to be approved before the Application for EA is submitted to DFFE.
- In an event that the approved layout needs to be changed to one of the other layout alternatives assessed, a part 2 amendment application must be lodged.

Access and roads

- All access roads that trigger listed activities must be indicated in the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
- Any future access roads that do not form part of this application, will need authorisation through a new process and will not be authorised through an amendment process if they trigger any listed activities.

The DFFE further indicated that both the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should have a clear indication of the preferred layout alternative. Furthermore, the specialist studies to be conducted must be aligned with the ones specified in the screening report. Site verification statements must be issued by each appointed specialist before the studies are conducted. If the site verification statement considers the impacts associated with the proposed development low, then there won't be a need to conduct the study/impact assessment, however, a site verification must be issued by the specialist.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM

Minutes prepared by: Tshepho Mamashela, Environamics Environmental Consultants, Friday, 14 October 2022