



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

APPLICATION FORM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Application for authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

PROJECT TITLE

Vlakfontein Solar PV1 on the Remainder of Vlakfontein No 15 and Portion 1 of Jackalsfontein No 443, Viljoenskroon, Free State Province

Indicate if the **DRAFT** report accompanies the application

Yes
No

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

Was a pre-application meeting held	Yes	X	No	
Date of the pre-application meeting	5 April 2022			
Reference number of pre-application meeting held	2022-03-0026			
Was minutes compiled and submitted to the Department for approval	Yes	X	No	

A copy of the pre-application meeting minutes must be appended to this application as **APPENDIX 1**.

Kindly note the following:

1. This form must always be used for applications that must be subjected to Basic Assessment or Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting where this Department is the Competent Authority.
2. This application form is current as of **April 2021**. It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
3. The onus is on the Applicant/EAP to determine all applicable listed activities that would require Environmental Authorisation prior to the commencement of the construction activities. Should any revision of your development comprise any other activities that constitute a listed activity/ies as defined in Listing Notice 1, 2, or 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, it must also form part of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.
4. An application fee is applicable (refer to **Section 2**). Proof of payment must accompany this application. The application will not be processed without proof of payment unless one of the exclusions provided for in the Fee Regulations is applicable AND such information in the exclusion section of this application form has been confirmed by this Department.
5. A cover letter on your company letterhead indicating the nature of this application must be appended to this form i.e. new application for Environmental Authorisation, updated application for Environmental Authorisation.
6. An electronic copy of the signed application form must be submitted of both the Applicant and EAP.
7. This form must be marked "**for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**" and submitted to the Department at the format as prescribed in the process to upload documents form.

8. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g. Arial 10).
9. Where applicable black out the boxes that are not applicable in the form.
10. The use of the phrase “not applicable” in the form must be done with circumspection. Where it is used in respect of material information that is required by the Competent Authority for assessing the application, this may result in the rejection of the application as provided for in the Regulations.
11. Unless protected by law, all information contained in and attached to this application, will become public information on receipt by the Competent Authority. Upon request during any stage of the application process, the Applicant / EAP must provide any registered interested and affected party with the information contained in and attached to this application.
12. Should a specialist report or report on a specialised process be submitted at any stage for any part of this application, the terms of reference for such report and declaration of interest of the specialist must also be submitted.
13. Please note that this form must be copied to the relevant Provincial Environmental Department(s)
14. An application for Environmental Authorisation lapses if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.
15. An application for environmental authorisation must be accompanied by a report generated by the web based environmental screening tool (in Appendix 11). This has been stipulated as a requirement for the submission of applications for environmental assessment in the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations. The Screening Tool allows for the generation of a Screening Report referred to in Regulation 16(1)(v) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2014, as amended, whereby a Screening Report is required to accompany any application for Environmental Authorisation.

Departmental Details

Online Submission:

EIAapplications@environment.gov.za or <https://sfiler.environment.gov.za:8443/>.

Please read the process for uploading files to determine how files are to be submitted to this Department.

Postal address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Physical address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:
Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

1. COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified Competent Authority to consider the application:
Reason(s) in terms of S24C of NEMA:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

The following information was obtained from a document named "EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT FOR GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. 779 PUBLISHED IN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NO. 40110 DATED 1 JULY 2016". This notice was published to clarify the concern regarding who the competent authority is for Environmental Authorisation (EA) applications for renewable energy projects.

In December 2009 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the then President committed South Africa to take nationally appropriate Carbon Dioxide mitigation action to reduce emissions. This commitment was made in line with the Articles of the UNFCCC and is being implemented, among others, through the Department of Energy's (DoE) Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 – 2030.

Government Notice 779 in Government Gazette No. 40110 confirms that the Minister is the competent authority for activities which are identified as activities i.t.o. section 24(2)(a) of NEMA, which may not commence without an EA, and *which relates to the IRP* and any updates thereto.

In light of the above, it is imperative to clarify that the Minister is the competent authority for applications for EA for facilities or infrastructure, including its ancillary activities, that will form part of the IRP Programmes for technologies whose procurement processes have been determined under the Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 and / or the Electricity Regulations on New Generation Capacity as well as any future determinations that may be made.

If the proponent will not, or does not intend to, participate in any of the IRP programmes, the competent authority will be the MEC responsible for environmental affairs in the respective province, unless another sub-section of section 24C of NEMA specifies the Minister to be the competent authority.

The EA applications that will be dealt with by the Minister for the above-mentioned IRP Programmes include applications for:

- a) new power generation facilities, including ancillary activities;
- b) *new power lines, including ancillary activities;
- c) new substations, including ancillary activities;
- d) expansion of existing power generation facilities;
- e) lengthening or expansion of existing power lines;
- f) expansion of existing substations;
- g) ancillary activities, directly related to existing power generation facilities;
- h) ancillary activities, directly related to existing substations;
- i) ancillary activities, directly related to existing power lines;
- j) amendment of an existing EA that was granted by the DFFE or by any of the provincial environmental departments —

provided that such application related to the electricity generation facility, substation or power lines will form / forms / formed part of the IRP Programmes.

The Mercury Solar PV Cluster

It is the intention of the Applicant to bid the Vlakfontein Solar PV1 facility in the next, and other future bidding rounds of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). The fact that the Applicant intent to bid is in support of the IRP and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment is therefore the Competent Authority for this project.

2. FEES

Applicants are required to tick the appropriate box below to indicate that either proof of payment is attached or that, in the applicant's view, an exclusion applies. Proof of payment or a motivation for exclusions must be attached as **APPENDIX 2** of this application form.

Proof of payment attached	Yes	No
Payment Reference Number (coordinates are in the approximate centre of the site)	-27.011704°/26.864284°	
Exclusion in terms of Regulation 2(a) or 2(b) of GNR 141 of 28 February 2014	Yes	No

An applicant is excluded from paying fees if:

- The activity is a community based project funded by a government grant; or
- The applicant is an organ of state.

TYPE OF EXCLUSION	Tick where applicable. Proper motivation must be attached to the application
The activity is a community based project funded by a government Grant	
The applicant is an organ of state	

FEE AMOUNT	Fee
Application for an environmental authorisation for which basic assessment is required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	R2 000
Application for an environmental authorisation, for which S&EIR is required in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations	R10 000

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment banking details for the payment of application fees:

<p>Payment Enquiries: Email: eiafee@environment.gov.za</p> <p>Banking details: ABSA Bank Branch code: 632005 Account number: 1044 2400 72 Current account</p> <p>Reference number: Reference number to be provided in the specific format indicating centre point coordinates of site in decimal degrees to 5 or 6 decimal places: latitude/longitude e.g. -33.918861/18.423300</p> <p>Status: Tax exempted</p>
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3. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the Applicant:	Vlakfontein Solar PV1 (Pty) Ltd		
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	-		
Name of contact person for applicant (if other):	Mr Warren Morse		
RSA Identity/ Passport Number:	831021 5250 080		
Responsible position, e.g. Director, CEO, etc.:	Director of Solar: Mulilo Renewable Energy Projects		
Company/ Trading name (if any):	Mulilo		
Company Registration Number:	2015 / 014902 / 07		
BBBEE status:	Level 4		
Physical address:	Top Floor Golf Park 4, Raapenberg Rd, Mowbray, 7700		
Postal address:	Postnet Suite #53, Private Bag X21, Howard Place, 7450		
Postal code:	7450	Cell:	083 760 9586
Telephone:	021 685 3240	Fax:	-
E-mail:	warren@mulilo.com		
Name of the landowner:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Registered Landowner of Portion 1 of the Farm Jackalsfontein 443 , Gregory Gossayn Trust The Registered Landowner of the Farm Vlakfontein Nr 15, Alic Gossayn Pty Ltd 		
Name of contact person for landowner (if other):	Mr John Gossayn		
Postal address:	3 Krige St, Viljoenskroon		
Postal code:	9520	Cell:	082 401 3653
Telephone:	-	Fax:	
E-mail:	gossaynsgrage@vjk.co.za / beverleygossayn@gmail.com / alicgossayn@vjk.co.za		
Name of Person in control of the land:	Same as above		
Name of contact person for person in control of the land:			
Postal address:			
Postal code:		Cell:	
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:			

In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of those landowners with their contact details as **APPENDIX 3**.

Unless the application is in respect of linear activities or Strategic Infrastructure Projects as contemplated in the Infrastructure Development Act (Act No. 23 of 2014), written consent of landowner/s must be submitted in **APPENDIX 3**.

The originally signed declaration undertaking by the applicant must be submitted as **APPENDIX 9**.

Provincial Environmental Authority:	Department of Economic , Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA)		
Name of contact person:	Deputy Director Environmental Impact Assessment; Ms Grace Mkhosana		
Postal address:	Private Bag x 20801, Bloemfontein		
Postal code:	9300	Cell:	082 789 4611
Telephone:	051 400 4812/7	Fax:	-
E-mail:	mkhosana@destea.gov.za		

Local Municipality:	Moghaka Local Municipality		
Name of contact person in (Environmental Section)	Municipal Manager, Mncedisi Simon Mqwathi care of Seithati Monyaki (Acting).		
Postal address:	Private Bag X503, Kroonstad		
Postal code:	9500	Cell:	-
Telephone:	056 216 9125 / 9377 / 9378	Fax:	-
E-mail:	mms@moghaka.gov.za		

In instances where there is more than one Local/Provincial Authority involved, please attach a list of those Local/Provincial Authorities with their contact details as **APPENDIX 4**.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER (EAP) INFORMATION

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner:	Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd		
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1 to 8 or non-compliant)	4	Percentage Procurement recognition 100%
EAP name:	Annelize Erasmus and Susanna Nel		
EAP Qualifications:	BL Landscape Architecture and BEcon respectively with numerous EIA and relevant short courses at UCT and NWU Condensed CVs available on www.landscapedynamics.za		
Professional affiliation/registration:	EAPASA Registered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Annelize Grobler: 2019/1728 o Susanna Nel: 2019/519 		
Physical address:	3 Palomino Avenue, Somerset West		
Postal address:	3 Palomino Avenue, Somerset West		
Postal code:	7130	Cell:	082 566 4530 / 082 888 4060
Telephone:		Fax:	
E-mail:	info@landscapedynamics.co.za		

The appointed EAP must meet the requirements of Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. The declaration of independence of the EAP and undertaking under oath or affirmation that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of the application is true and correct must be submitted as **APPENDIX 10**.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please provide a **detailed** description of the project.

The Vlakfontein Solar PV1 facility will have a contracted capacity of up to 100MW with a development footprint of approximately 151 hectares in size.

Infrastructure	Specifications
Solar PV Array	<p>The Solar PV Array includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bifacial PV Modules • Mounting structures using single axis tracking technology • Inverters • Combiner boxes • Transformers • Cabling between panels • Total PV area is approximately 151 ha.
Onsite 132 kV Independent Power Producer (IPP) Substation	<p>The IPP Substation includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HV Step-up transformer • MV Interconnection building • Total area approximately 100 m x 100 m (1 ha)
Access and internal roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main access to the IPP substation area is required directly off Vermaasdrift Road (S643), approximately 8m wide. The length of the road is approximately 498 m. The coordinates of the access point are: 27° 0'36.07"S 26°51'19.21"E • Existing internal farm roads to be utilised where possible, • Internal roads to be constructed up to 6m wide. • Regraveling of roads to take place if required by the provincial roads authority.
Laydown area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A temporary construction site area of approximately 4ha directly adjacent to the IPP and Eskom substation will be required. • All temporary infrastructure will be rehabilitated following the completion of the construction phase, where it is not required for the operation phase.
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid State Batteries (SSB) is the preferred battery technology . • It will be delivered to the site pre-assembled. • It will be constructed on approximately 4.5 ha.
Storage of Dangerous Goods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage of dangerous goods (Including lubrications, oils, paints, fuel/diesel, etc.) with a combined capacity of less than 80 cubic metres is required. • Diesel/fuel is generally required for the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During construction for construction vehicles as well as generators for the construction camp and commissioning whilst waiting for the Eskom grid connection works to be completed ▪ During operations, diesel is required for vehicles at the PV plant as well as for backup diesel generators at the substation. The Generators supply auxiliary power to the substation's protection and communications systems, should there be outages on the grid. This is an Eskom requirement together with a battery room at the substations to act as UPS for these critical systems.

Ancillary Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations and Maintenance Building • Site Offices • Construction camps • Storage Warehouse • Workshop • Guard House • Ablutions with conservancy tanks • During the construction phase, temporary sanitation facilities will be provided (i.e. chemical toilets) and these toilets will be regularly serviced by a licensed company.
<p>Note Components of a separate Application for Environmental Authorisation as it would be handed over to Eskom (to be developed by the IPP under a self-build agreement with Eskom):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An onsite 132kV Eskom switching station • A 132kV power line connecting the Vlakfontein Solar PV1 facility to the Mercury MTS 	

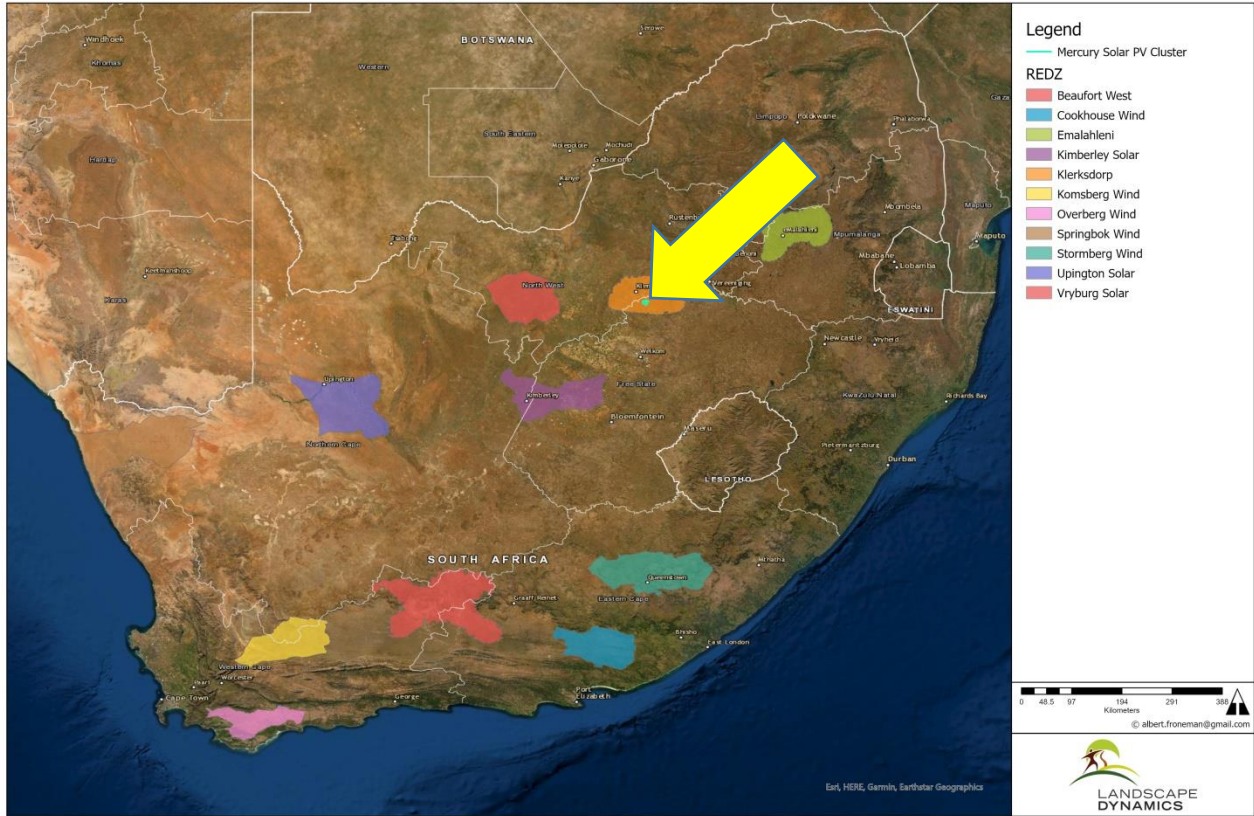
Does the project form part of a Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) as per GN 114?	YES	NO
Does the project form part of an Electricity Grid Infrastructure (EGI) as per GN 113?	YES	NO
Does the project form part of any of the Strategic Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) as described in the National Development Plan, 2011?	YES	NO
Did you attached the confirmation of SIP obtained from the relevant sector representative (SIP Coordinators) and not a motivation from an EAP	YES	NO

If **YES**, is selected:

- For an application in terms of GN 113 and/or 114, then a map confirming this must be attached;
- For a SIP project, kindly indicate which SIPs are applicable in **APPENDIX 5** and attach the confirmation of SIP applications from the relevant sector representative in **APPENDIX 5**. Should no proof be provided, the application will be considered as a normal EIA Application.

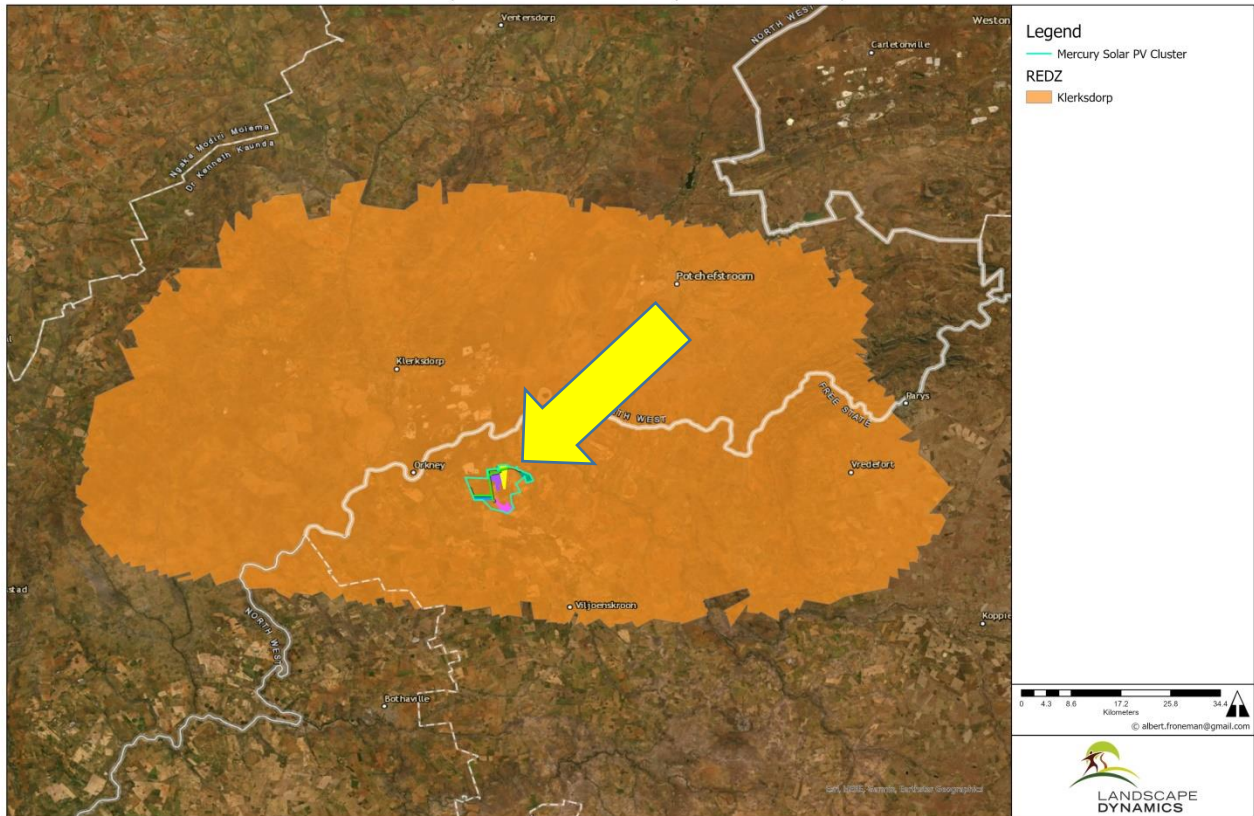
Renewable Energy Development Zones

The Mercury Solar PV Cluster falls entirely within the Klerksdorp REDZ



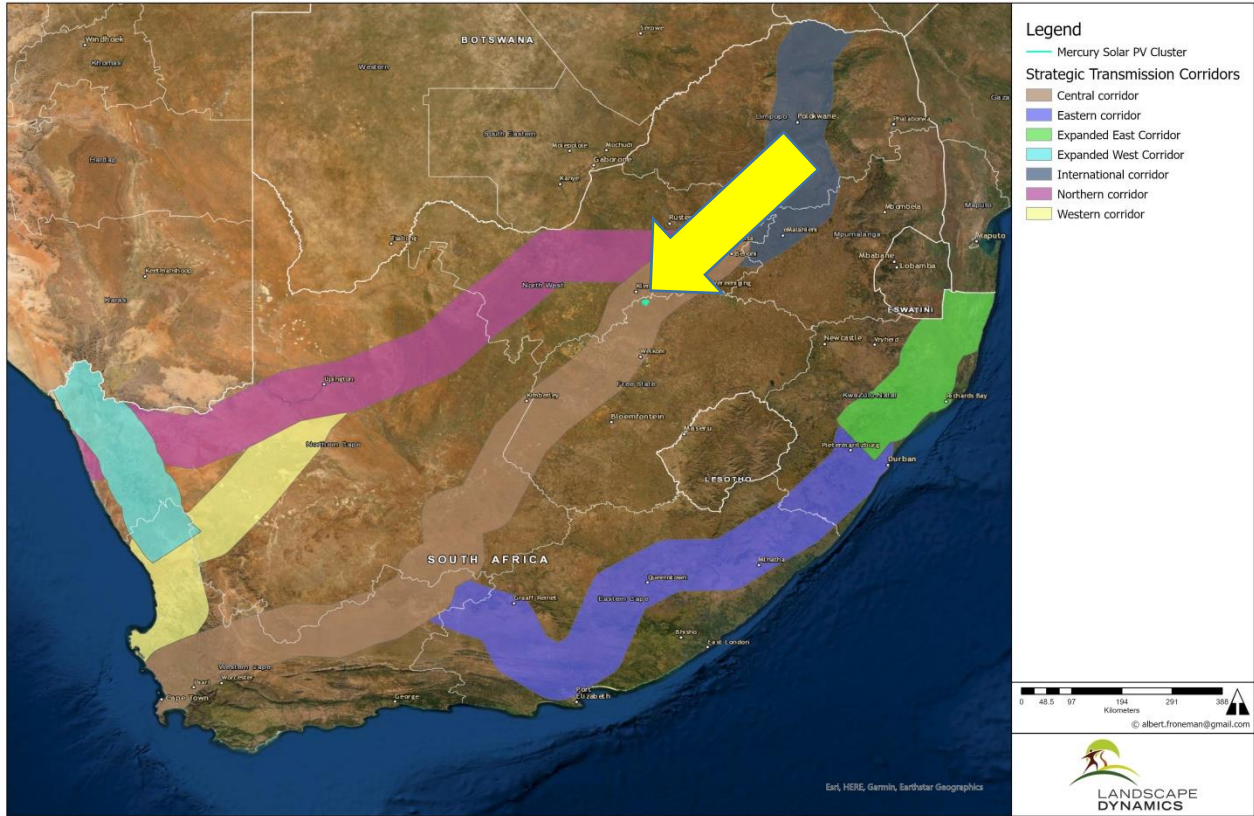
Renewable Energy Development Zones

The Mercury Solar PV Cluster falls entirely within the Klerksdorp REDZ



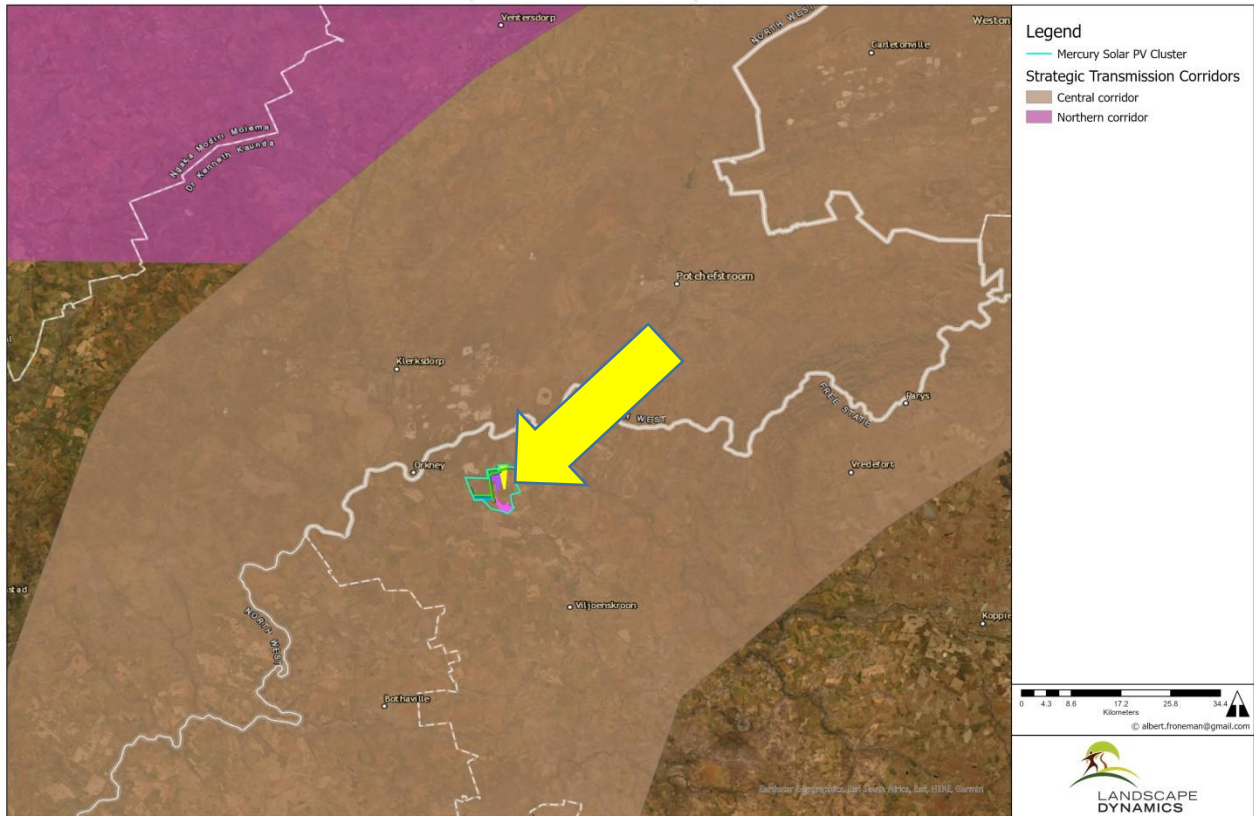
Strategic Transmission Corridors

The Mercury Solar PV Cluster falls entirely within the Central STC



Strategic Transmission Corridors

The Mercury Solar PV Cluster falls entirely within the Central STC



Please indicate which sector the project falls under by ticking the relevant block in the table below:

Table 1: National Sector Classification in terms of Regulation 9 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended

1	Infrastructure /Transport Services/Roads – Public		42	Services/Waste Management Services/Disposal facilities - General	
2	Infrastructure /Transport Services/Roads – Private		43	Services/Waste Management Services/Treatment facilities – Hazardous	
3	Infrastructure /Transport Services/Rail – Public		44	Services/Waste Management Services/Treatment facilities - General	
4	Infrastructure /Transport Services/Rail – Private		45	Services/Waste Management Services/Storage Facilities - General	
5	Infrastructure /Transport Services/Airport/Runways/Landing Strip/Helipad – Commercial		46	Services/Waste Management Services/Storage Facilities - Hazardous	
6	Infrastructure /Transport Services/Airport/Runways/Landing Strip/Helipad – Private		47	Services/Waste Management Services/Storage Facilities - Nuclear	
7	Infrastructure /Transport Services/Airport/Runways/Landing Strip/Helipad - Public Services		48	Services/Burial and cemeteries - Cemeteries	
8	Infrastructure /Transport Services - Ports		49	Services/Burial and cemeteries - Cremators	
9	Infrastructure /Transport Services - Inland Waterways		50	Services/Water services/Storage – Dams	
10	Infrastructure /Transport Services - Marina		51	Services/Water services/Storage - Reservoirs	
11	Infrastructure /Transport Services - Canal		52	Services/Water services - Desalination	
12	Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Infrastructure in the Sea/Estuary/Littoral Active Zone/Development Setback/100M Inland/or coastal public property.		53	Services/Water services - Treatment & Waste Water	
13	Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Zip Lines & Foefie Slides		54	Services - Hospitality	

14	Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure - Cableway or Funiculars		55	Mining - Prospecting rights	
15	Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure – Billboards		56	Mining - Mining Permit	
16	Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure/Storage/Dangerous Goods/Hydrocarbon - Gas		57	Mining - Mining Right	
17	Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure/Storage/Dangerous Goods/Hydrocarbon - Petroleum		58	Mining/Exploration Right - Gas or Oil Marine	
18	Infrastructure /Localised infrastructure/Storage/Dangerous good – Chemicals		59	Mining/Exploration Right - Gas or Oil Terrestrial	
19	Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines/water - Fresh/Storm Water		60	Mining/Production Right - Gas or Oil Marine	
20	Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines/water - Waste Water		61	Mining/Production Right - Gas or Oil Terrestrial	
21	Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines/Dangerous Goods - Chemicals		62	Mining/Underground gasification of coal - Oil	
22	Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines/Hydrocarbon – Petroleum		63	Mining/Beneficiation - Hydrocarbon	
23	Utilities Infrastructure/Pipelines/Hydrocarbon - Gas		64	Mining/Beneficiation - Mineral	
24	Utilities Infrastructure/Telecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting - Tower		65	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Crop Production	
25	Utilities Infrastructure/Telecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting - Mast		66	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Animal Production	
26	Utilities Infrastructure/Telecommunications/ Radio Broadcasting - Receivers		67	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Afforestation	
27	Utilities Infrastructure - Marine Cables		68	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries/Aquaculture/Inland- Alien	

28	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Non Renewable/Hydrocarbon – Petroleum		69	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries/Aquaculture/Inland-Indigenous	
29	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Non Renewable/Hydrocarbon – Coal		70	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries/Aquaculture/Marine - Alien	
30	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Non Renewable - Nuclear		71	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries/Aquaculture/Marine - Indigenous	
31	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Hydro		72	Agriculture/Forestry/ Fisheries - Agro-Processing	
32	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable/Solar - PV	X	73	Transformation of land - Indigenous vegetation	
33	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable/Solar - CSP		74	Transformation of land - From open space or Conservation	
34	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Wind		75	Transformation of land - From agriculture or afforestation	
35	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Biomass/ biofuels		76	Transformation of land - From mining or heavy industrial areas	
36	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Generation/Renewable - Wave		77	Any activities within or close to a watercourse	
37	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Distribution and Transmission - Power line		78	Any activity in an estuary, on the seashore, in the littoral active zone, or in the sea.	
38	Utilities Infrastructure/Electricity /Distribution and Transmission – Substation		79	Activity requiring permit or licence in terms of National or Provincial legislation governing the release or generation of emissions - Emissions	
39	Utilities Infrastructure/Gas /Distribution and Transmission – Compressor Station		80	Activity requiring permit or licence - Marine Effluent	
40	Services/Waste Management Services/Disposal facilities - Hazardous		81	Activity requiring permit or licence - Fresh Water Effluent	
82	Release of Genetically Modified Organisms				

Table 1

Does the listed activity/ies applied for form part of a larger project which is not a listed activity itself e.g. a road that is a listed activity that is needed to access a drilling site where the drilling does not constitute a listed activity.	YES	NO
If indicated yes above, please provide a brief description on how the activity/ies relate to the larger project that forms part there of:		

6. SITE DESCRIPTION

Provide a detailed description of the site involved in the application.

Province/s	Free State
District Municipality/ies	Fezile Dabi District Municipality
Local Municipality/ies	Moghaka Local Municipality
Ward number/s	Ward 22
Nearest town/s	Viljoenskroon
Farm name/s and number/s	Remainder of Vlakfontein No 15 Portion 1 of Jackalsfontein No 443
Portion number/s	Remainder of Vlakfontein No 15 Portion 1 of Jackalsfontein No 443

Surveyor General 21 digit code:

(If there are more than 4, please attach a list with the rest of the codes as **APPENDIX 6**. Where the 21 digit SGID and farm name are not available, the coordinates of the boundary of the property or properties must be provided in **APPENDIX 6**.)

Major region				Minor region				Farm / Erf number							Portion number					
F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
F	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	3	0	0	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5
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Locality map:	<p>A locality map must be attached to the application form, as APPENDIX 7. The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g. 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an accurate indication of the project site position as well as positions of the alternative sites, if any; • road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s) • a north arrow; • a legend; • the prevailing wind direction; • site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, World Heritage Site, etc. and it must be overlaid by the study area; and • GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site. The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national or local projection)
Project Plan (e.g. Gantt chart)	<p>A project schedule must be submitted as APPENDIX 8, and must include milestones for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public participation (dates for advertisements, workshops and other meetings, obtaining comment from organs of state including state departments); • the commencement of parallel application processes required in terms of other statutes and where

	<p>relevant, the alignment of these application processes with the EIA process;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the submission of the key documents (e.g. Basic Assessment Report, Scoping Reports, EIA Reports and Environmental Management Programmes). <p>Note: All the above dates must take into account the statutory timeframes for authority responses that are stipulated in the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations. Possible appeals may impact on project timeframes/milestones. Regulation 45 states that “An application in terms of these Regulations lapses, and a competent authority will deem the application as having lapsed, if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless extension has been granted in terms of regulation 3(7).” It is recommended that the Department be approached for guidance on the process to be followed, prior to submitting an application.</p>
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7. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

For an application for authorisation that involves more than one listed activity that, together, make up one development proposal, all the listed activities pertaining to this application must be provided below.

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
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Listing Notice 1		
11	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity</p> <p>(i) Outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or</p> <p>(ii) Inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, <u>excluding</u> the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is —</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure; b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length; c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development. 	<p>An onsite 132 kV Independent Power Producer (IPP) Substation forms part of the project components for which Environmental Authorisation is required with this application.</p>
12	<p>The development of</p> <p>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</p>	<p>An existing access road will be upgraded and developed across a seepage area. This road will be approximately 6m in width and approximately 265m in length where it crosses the seepage area. A surface area of <u>at least</u> 1 590m² will ultimately be</p>

	<p>where such development occurs</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>excluding</p> <p>(aa) the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</p> <p>(bb) where such development activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</p> <p>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</p> <p>(dd) where such development occurs within an urban area;</p> <p>(ee) where such development occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves; or</p> <p>(ff) the development of temporary infrastructure or structures where such infrastructure or structures will be removed within 6 weeks of the commencement of development and where indigenous vegetation will not be cleared.</p>	<p>affected.</p> <p>There are four depressions / degraded wetlands modified by agricultural activities which were confirmed by the aquatic ecologist as having a low aquatic sensitivity and can be development. These areas are approximately 4,66ha'; 3,33ha; 0,83ha, and 0,5ha, in extent. The combined total surface area is therefore approximately 9,32ha which equals 93 200m².</p>
19	<p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shell grot, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse,</p> <p>but <u>excluding</u> where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</p> <p>a) will occur behind a development setback;</p> <p>b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</p> <p>c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</p> <p>d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</p> <p>e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</p>	<p>An existing road will be upgraded and developed across a seepage area. It will be approximately 6m in width and approximately 265m in length where it crosses this seepage area. A surface area of at least 1 590m² will ultimately be affected; therefore infilling or depositing of more than 10m³ will be required in this area</p> <p>In addition, there are four depressions/degraded wetlands modified by agricultural activities which were confirmed by the aquatic ecologist as having a low aquatic sensitivity and can be development. This covers an area of approximately 93 200m²; therefore combine infilling or depositing of more than 10m³ will also be required in these areas.</p> <p>The final calculations in terms of the infilling and/or excavation volumes will only be determined during the design phase of</p>

		the project.
24	<p>The development of a road—</p> <p>(i) for which an environmental authorisation was obtained for the route determination in terms of activity 5 in Government Notice 387 of 2006 or activity 18 in Government Notice 545 of 2010; or</p> <p>(ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres;</p> <p>but excluding a road—</p> <p>a) which is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014;</p> <p>b) where the entire road falls within an urban area; or</p> <p>c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.</p>	<p>The following roads are planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main access to the facility will be approximately 8m wide. • Internal roads will be constructed up to 6m wide. <p>The approval of this activity will ensure that additional width, if any, required for the main access point, turning circles and bends can take place. The exact road widths and lengths will only be confirmed during the design phase of the project.</p>
28	<p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</p> <p>excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</p>	<p>The development footprint of the Vlakfontein Solar PV1 facility will be developed on approximately 151 ha which contain areas previously cropped and uncropped outside an urban area.</p>

Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Scoping and EIA Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
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[Government Gazette 41445, Notice Number 114 of 16 February 2018](#)
Even though Listing Notice 2 calls for a full Scoping and EIA to be undertaken, the project site falls within a Renewable Energy Zone (Klerksdorp REDZ) which implies that a Basic Assessment process has to be undertaken regardless if Listing Notice 2 is triggered or not.

Listing Notice 2		
1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more,	A solar PV facility of up to 100MW with associated infrastructure will be constructed outside an urban area.

	excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs (a) within an urban area; or (b) on existing infrastructure.	
15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for (i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan (ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The combined properties' size is 493 ha in extent of which the development footprint will affect approximately 151 ha of previously cropped and uncropped land. Indigenous vegetation of more than 20 ha will be removed within the total project area.

Activity No(s)	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
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Listing Notice 3		
4	<p>The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.</p> <p>b. Free State</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding disturbed areas;</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</p> <p>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves; or</p> <p>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve, excluding disturbed areas; or</p> <p>ii. Inside urban areas:</p>	<p>Listing Notice 3 is applicable because the development site lies outside urban areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> according to the DFFE Screening Tool Report the entire site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area. according to the Protected Areas Register the Mispah Game Farm (Nature Reserve) is situated approximately 1,2km north-west of the PV site. <p>The applicable project components/ activities are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main access to the IPP substation area off the Vermaasdrift Road (S643) will be constructed to a width of approximately 8m. All other internal roads will be constructed to a width of approximately 6m.

	<p>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space;</p> <p>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose; or</p> <p>(cc) Areas within urban protected areas.</p>	
10	<p>The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 but not exceeding 80 cubic metres.</p> <p>b. Free State</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</p> <p>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</p> <p>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core areas of a biosphere reserve; or</p> <p>(hh) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland; or</p> <p>ii. Inside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; or</p> <p>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose.</p>	<p>Listing Notice 3 is applicable because the development site lies outside urban areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • according to the DFFE Screening Tool Report the entire site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area. • according to the Protected Areas Register the Mispah Game Farm (Nature Reserve) is situated approximately 1,2km north-west of the PV site. <p>The applicable project components/ activities are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Storage of dangerous goods (Including lubrications, oils, paints, fuel/diesel. etc.) will be required. The exact storage capacity has not yet been determined, but it will be 30m³ or more, but less than 80m³. • Diesel/fuel is generally required for the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During construction for construction vehicles as well as generators for the construction camp and commissioning whilst waiting for the Eskom grid connection works to be completed ○ During operations required for Operations & Maintenance vehicles at the PV plants but also required for backup diesel generators at the substation. The Generators supply auxiliary power to the substation's protection and communications systems, should there be outages on the grid. This is an Eskom requirement together with a battery room at the substations to act as UPS for these critical systems.
12	<p>The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such</p>	<p>Listing Notice 3 is applicable because of the following:</p>

	<p>clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> <p>b. Free State</p> <p>i. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>ii. Within any critically endangered or endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the NEMBA or prior to the publication of such a list, within an area that has been identified as critically endangered in the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment 2004;</p> <p>ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.</p> <p>iii. On land, where, at the time of the coming into effect of this Notice or thereafter such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning; or</p> <p>iv. Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the DFFE Screening Tool Report, the entire site is situated within both a Critical Biodiversity Area and an Endangered Ecosystem. • The ecologist confirmed that the vegetation of the study area belongs to the endangered Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland vegetation type (Gh 10) (Mucina & Rutherford 2006). • A watercourse (seepage area) to be excluded from the development area and depressions/degraded small wetlands that will form part of the PV area occur on site. <p>The applicable project components/ activities are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development footprint will affect approximately 160 ha of previously cropped and uncropped land indigenous vegetation of way more than 300m² will be removed. • PV solar panels as well as roads will be constructed that requires clearance of indigenous vegetation exceeding 300m² to take place within 100m from the edge of the above-mentioned watercourses.
14	<p>The development of</p> <p>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback has been adopted within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p> <p>b. Free State</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p>	<p>Listing Notice 3 is applicable because the development site lies outside urban areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • according to the DFFE Screening Tool Report the entire site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area. • according to the Protected Areas Register the Mispah Game Farm (Nature Reserve) is situated approximately 1,2km north-west of the PV site. <p>The applicable project components/ activities are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An existing access road will be upgraded and developed across a delineated seepage area. This road will be approximately 6m in width and approximately 265m in length where it

	<p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</p> <p>(cc) World Heritage Sites;</p> <p>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or inbioregional plans;</p> <p>(gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves; or</p> <p>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve; or</p> <p>ii. Inside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; or</p> <p>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, zoned for a conservation purpose.</p>	<p>crosses the delineated seepage area. A surface area of at least 1 590m² will ultimately be affected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are also four depressions / degraded wetlands modified by agricultural activities which were confirmed by the aquatic ecologist as having a low aquatic sensitivity and can be development. These areas are approximately 4,66ha; 3,33ha; 0,83ha, and 0,5ha in extent. The combined total surface area is therefore approximately 9,32ha which equals 93 200m².
18	<p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>b. Free State</p> <p>i. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</p> <p>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</p> <p>(gg) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere</p>	<p>Listing Notice 3 is applicable because the development site lies outside urban areas; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ according to the DFFE Screening Tool Report the entire site falls within a Critical Biodiversity Area. ○ according to the Protected Areas Register the Mispah Game Farm (Nature Reserve) is situated approximately 1,2km north-west of the PV site <p>The applicable project components/ activities are the following:</p> <p>Existing roads will be widened by more than 4 metres and/or lengthened by more than 1km within 100m from the edge of a watercourse / wetland.</p>

	reserve; or (hh) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland; or ii. Inside urban areas: (aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; or (bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority or zoned for a conservation purpose.	
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Please note that any authorisation that may result from this application will only cover activities specifically applied for. Only those activities listed above shall be considered for authorisation. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to commencement with each applicable listed activity.

Coordinate points indicating the location of each listed activity must be provided as part of **APPENDIX 6** as well part of the reports to be submitted. Coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Provide details of the public participation process proposed for the application as required by Regulation 41(2) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

The PPP is being conducted in terms of the Sections 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended. The newspaper advertisements, onsite notices and Background Information Document (BID) advertised the entire Mercury Solar PV Cluster (5x solar PV facilities as well as the grid connections).

- **IAP Register: Landowner, Government Departments, Municipalities and other IAPs**
An Interested & Affected Party (IAP) register was compiled which includes the directly affected landowners, adjacent landowners, municipalities, government departments and other applicable organisations. This register is being updated throughout the EIA process.
- **Focus group meetings with directly affected landowners**
Focus group meetings were held with the various directly affected landowners of the 5x solar PV facilities within the Mercury PV Cluster on 18 November 2021.
- **Onsite notification**
Three A2 laminated onsite notices were placed on 22 March 2022 at the following places:
 - Along the Vermaasdrift Road (S643) from which the main access to the facility will be constructed.
 - The Mercury Main Transmission Substation
 - The gate of the Viljoenskroon Post Office
- **Newspaper advertisement**
Newspaper advertisements were placed in
 - The Citizen (national newspaper) on 30 March 2022
 - The Vrystaat Kroon (local newspaper) on 30 March 22
- **Background Information Document**
A BID was distributed to everyone on the IAP Register for a 30-day commenting period (31 March – 4 May 2022).

- **Distribution of the Draft BAR**

The Draft BAR (this document) is being distributed as follows:

- All IAPs identified in the IAP Register received notification via email that the Draft BAR is available for comment (proof thereof will be provided in the Final BAR).
- The Draft BAR was distributed for a 30-day (plus holidays) commenting period – from 4 April 2023 to 10 May 2023.
- All IAPs received an email with the Executive Summary and Draft BAR as an attachment. A link to the Draft BAR and all the Appendices was made available on the Landscape Dynamics website (www.landscapedynamics.co.za) – detailed instructions on how to access these documents were provided in the said email.
- A hard copy of the Draft BAR was made available at the Nostalgia Spa, Guesthouse & Gallery in Viljoenskroon - the availability of the hard copy of the Draft BAR at this location was mentioned in the abovementioned emails.
- The Application Form together with the Draft BAR was submitted to DFFE for comment via their online system.

- **Submission of Final BAR**

Comment received on the Draft BAR has now been included in the Final BAR. The Final BAR will not be distributed for another 30-day commenting because no substantial changes to the BAR have been made that may impact on the rights of the IAPs.

The Final BAR has now been submitted to DFFE for their consideration for Environmental Authorisation.

9. OTHER AUTHORISATIONS REQUIRED

Are there any other applications for Environmental Authorisation on the same property?	YES	NO
If YES, please indicate the following:		
Competent Authority		
Application Reference Number		
Project Name		
Please provide details of the steps taken to ascertain this information:		
None aware of. Information was provided by Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd.		

IF YES IS SELECTED, PLEASE ATTACH OTHER AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED.

Applications in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (“NEMA”) & specific environmental management Acts (“SEMA’s”):

LEGISLATION	AUTHORISATION REQUIRED		APPLICATION SUBMITTED	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
Is Section 50(5) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act applicable to your proposed development? (The proposed development is within a proclaimed protected area as defined the Act.)	YES	NO	YES	NO
National Water Act (Act No. 36 of 1998) Application for a WULA / General Authorisation is required because the development will take place within 500m from a wetland, but will only be done once Preferred Bidder status has been obtained	YES	NO	YES	NO

National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act No. 39 of 2004)	YES	NO	YES	NO
National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act No. 10 of 2004)	YES	NO	YES	NO
National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act No. 24 of 2008)	YES	NO	YES	NO
National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (Act No. 57 of 2003)	YES	NO	YES	NO
National Environmental Management: Waste Act (Act No. 59 of 2008)	YES	NO	YES	NO
Others: Please specify	YES	NO	YES	NO

Please be advised that:

- If a Waste Management license is required in terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, please contact the Department for guidance on the **Integrated Permitting System. An IPS application can only be lodged with this Department in the event that this Department is the Competent Authority for both the EIA and Waste related activities;**
- If Sections 7B and 7C of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act is applicable to your proposed development, you are required to obtain pre-approval for a reclamation application prior to an Application for Environmental Authorisation being lodged with the Competent Authority;
- If Section 50(5) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act is applicable to your proposed development, you are required to obtain approval from the Management Authority prior to an Application for Environmental Authorisation being lodged with the Competent Authority; and
- If Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) is applicable to your proposed development, you are requested to submit the Notice of Intent form to the relevant SAHRA or a Provincial Heritage Resources Authority and attach a copy to this form. If it is indicated that a Heritage Impact Assessment will be required, the Heritage Impact Assessment must be undertaken as one of the specialist studies of the EIA process to be undertaken in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES

		SUBMITTED	
APPENDIX 1	Copy of the pre-application meeting minutes	YES	NO
APPENDIX 2	Proof of Payment / Motivation for exclusion	YES	NO
APPENDIX 3	List of land owners (with contact details) and Written consent of landowner	YES	NO
APPENDIX 4	List of Local/Provincial Authority involved (with contact details)	YES	NO
APPENDIX 5	Strategic Infrastructure Projects	YES	NO
APPENDIX 6	List of SGIDs and coordinates	YES	NO
APPENDIX 7	Locality map	YES	NO
APPENDIX 8	Project schedule	YES	NO
APPENDIX 9	Declaration of Applicant	YES	NO
APPENDIX 10	Declaration of EAP and undertaking under oath or affirmation	YES	NO
APPENDIX 11	Screening Tool Report	YES	NO
APPENDIX 12	Undertaking under Oath / Affirmation	YES	NO

APPENDIX 1

COPY OF THE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING MINUTES

Attached

APPENDIX 2

PROOF OF PAYMENT/ MOTIVATION FOR EXCLUSION

Provided below



Absa Online: Notice of Payment

20 February 2023

Dear MULILO RENEWABLE PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS (PTY)

Subject: Notice Of Payment: Dept Environmental A

Please be advised that you made a payment to Dept Environmental A as indicated below.

Transaction number:	8029970F22-101
Payment date:	20230220
Payment made from:	MRPD
Payment made to:	Dept Environmental A
Beneficiary bank name:	ABSA BANK
Beneficiary account number:	1044240072
Bank branch code:	632005
For the amount of:	2.000.00
Immediate interbank payment :	N
Reference on beneficiary statement:	-27.011704/26.864284
Additional comments by payer:	-

Please remember that the following apply to Absa Online payments to non-ABSA bank accounts.

- Payments made on weekdays before 15:30 will be credited to the receiving bank account by midnight of the same day but may not be credited to the beneficiary's bank account at the same time.
- Payments made on weekdays after 15:30 will be credited by midnight of the following day.
- Payments made on a Saturday, Sunday or Public holiday will be credited to the account by midnight of the 1st following weekday.

If you need more information or assistance, please call us on 08600 08600 or +27 11 501 5110 (International calls).

If you have made an incorrect internet banking payment, please send an email to digital@absa.co.za

Yours sincerely

General Manager: Digital Channels

This document is intended for use by the addressee and is privileged and confidential. If the transmission has been misdirected to you, please contact us immediately. Thank you.

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APPENDIX 3

LIST OF LANDOWNERS - not applicable

WRITTEN CONSENT OF LAND OWNER - attached

APPENDIX 4

LIST OF LOCAL/PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY INVOLVED

Not applicable

**APPENDIX 5
STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

Not applicable

<p>SIP 1: Unlocking the northern mineral belt with Waterberg as the catalyst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlock mineral resources • Rail, water pipelines, energy generation and transmission infrastructure • Thousands of direct jobs across the areas unlocked • Urban development in Waterberg - first major post-apartheid new urban centre will be a “green” development project • Rail capacity to Mpumalanga and Richards Bay • Shift from road to rail in Mpumalanga • Logistics corridor to connect Mpumalanga and Gauteng. 	
<p>SIP 2: Durban-Free State-Gauteng logistics and industrial corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the logistics and transport corridor between SA’s main industrial hubs • Improve access to Durban’s export and import facilities • Integrate Free State Industrial Strategy activities into the corridor • New port in Durban • Aerotropolis around OR Tambo International Airport. 	
<p>SIP 3: South-Eastern node & corridor development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New dam at Mzimvubu with irrigation systems • N2-Wild Coast Highway which improves access into KwaZulu-Natal and national supply chains • Strengthen economic development in Port Elizabeth through a manganese rail capacity from Northern Cape • A manganese sinter (Northern Cape) and smelter (Eastern Cape) • Possible Mthombo refinery (Coega) and transshipment hub at Ngqura and port and rail upgrades to improve industrial capacity and performance of the automotive sector. 	
<p>SIP 4: Unlocking the economic opportunities in North West Province</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acceleration of investments in road, rail, bulk water, water treatment and transmission infrastructure • Enabling reliable supply and basic service delivery • Facilitate development of mining, agricultural activities and tourism opportunities • Open up beneficiation opportunities in North West Province. 	
<p>SIP 5: Saldanha-Northern Cape development corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated rail and port expansion • Back-of-port industrial capacity (including an IDZ) • Strengthening maritime support capacity for oil and gas along African West Coast • Expansion of iron ore mining production and beneficiation. 	
<p>SIP 6: Integrated municipal infrastructure project</p> <p>Develop national capacity to assist the 23 least resourced districts (19 million people) to address all the maintenance backlogs and upgrades required in water, electricity and sanitation bulk infrastructure. The road maintenance programme will enhance service delivery capacity thereby impacting positively on the population.</p>	
<p>SIP 7: Integrated urban space and public transport programme</p> <p>Coordinate planning and implementation of public transport, human settlement, economic and social infrastructure and location decisions into sustainable urban settlements connected by densified transport corridors. This will focus on the 12 largest urban centres of the country, including all the metros in South Africa. Significant work is underway on urban transport integration.</p>	

<p>SIP 8: Green energy in support of the South African economy Support sustainable green energy initiatives on a national scale through a diverse range of clean energy options as envisaged in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP2010) and support bio-fuel production facilities.</p> <p><i>Indicate capacity in MW:</i></p>	
<p>SIP 9: Electricity generation to support socioeconomic development Accelerate the construction of new electricity generation capacity in accordance with the IRP2010 to meet the needs of the economy and address historical imbalances. Monitor implementation of major projects such as new power stations: Medupi, Kusile and Ingula.</p> <p><i>Indicate capacity in MW:</i></p>	
<p>SIP 10: Electricity transmission and distribution for all Expand the transmission and distribution network to address historical imbalances, provide access to electricity for all and support economic development. Align the 10-year transmission plan, the services backlog, the national broadband roll-out and the freight rail line development to leverage off regulatory approvals, supply chain and project development capacity.</p>	
<p>SIP 11: Agri-logistics and rural infrastructure Improve investment in agricultural and rural infrastructure that supports expansion of production and employment, small-scale farming and rural development, including facilities for storage (silos, fresh-produce facilities, packing houses); transport links to main networks (rural roads, branch train-line, ports), fencing of farms, irrigation schemes to poor areas, improved R&D on rural issues (including expansion of agricultural colleges), processing facilities (abattoirs, dairy infrastructure), aquaculture incubation schemes and rural tourism infrastructure.</p>	
<p>SIP 12: Revitalisation of public hospitals and other health facilities Build and refurbish hospitals, other public health facilities and revamp 122 nursing colleges. Extensive capital expenditure to prepare the public healthcare system to meet the requirements of the National Health Insurance (NHI) system. The SIP contains major builds for 6 hospitals.</p>	
<p>SIP 13: National school build programme A national school build programme driven by uniformity in planning, procurement, contract management and provision of basic services. Replace inappropriate school structures and address basic service backlog and provision of basic services under the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI). In addition, address national backlogs in classrooms, libraries, computer labs and admin buildings. Improving the learning environment will strengthen outcomes especially in rural schools, as well as reduce overcrowding.</p>	
<p>SIP 14: Higher education infrastructure Infrastructure development for higher education, focusing on lecture rooms, student accommodation, libraries and laboratories, as well as ICT connectivity. Development of university towns with a combination of facilities from residence, retail to recreation and transport. Potential to ensure shared infrastructure such as libraries by universities, FETs and other educational institutions. Two new universities will be built - in Northern Cape and Mpumalanga.</p>	
<p>SIP 15: Expanding access to communication technology Provide for broadband coverage to all households by 2020 by establishing core Points of Presence (POPs) in district municipalities, extend new Infracore fibre networks across provinces linking districts, establish POPs and fibre connectivity at local level, and further penetrate the network into deep rural areas. While the private sector will invest in ICT infrastructure for urban and corporate networks, government will co-invest for township and rural access, as well as for e-government, school and health connectivity. The school roll-out focus is initially on the 125 Dinaledi (science and maths-focussed) schools and 1525 district schools. Part of digital access to all South Africans includes TV migration nationally from analogue to digital broadcasting.</p>	
<p>SIP 16: SKA & Meerkat SKA is a global mega-science project, building an advanced radio-telescope facility linked to research infrastructure and high-speed ICT capacity and provides an opportunity for Africa and South Africa to contribute towards global advanced science projects.</p>	

<p>SIP 17: Regional integration for African cooperation and development Participate in mutually beneficial infrastructure projects to unlock long-term socio-economic benefits by partnering with fast growing African economies with projected growth ranging between 3% and 10%. The projects involving transport, water and energy also provide competitively-priced, diversified, short and medium to long-term options for the South African economy where, for example, electricity transmission in Mozambique (Cesul) could assist in providing cheap, clean power in the short-term whilst Grand Inga in the DRC is long-term. All these projects complement the Free Trade Area (FTA) discussions to create a market of 600 million people in South, Central and East Africa.</p>	
<p>SIP 18: Water and sanitation infrastructure A 10-year plan to address the estimated backlog of adequate water to supply 1.4m households and 2.1m households to basic sanitation. The project will involve provision of sustainable supply of water to meet social needs and support economic growth. Projects will provide for new infrastructure, rehabilitation and upgrading of existing infrastructure, as well as improve management of water infrastructure.</p>	
<p>SIP 19: Water and Sanitation a. Vaal River System including Phase 2 of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project: Gauteng b. Phase 2A of the Mokolo Crocodile River (West) Augmentation Project: Limpopo c. uMkhomazi Water Project: KwaZulu Natal d. Olifants River Water Resource Development Project - Phase 2: Limpopo e. Vaal-Gamagara: Northern Cape f. Mzimvubu Water Project: Eastern Cape g. Rehabilitation of the Vaalharts-Taung Irrigation Scheme: Northern Cape & North West h. Groot Letaba River Water Development Project - Nwamitwa Dam: Limpopo i. Berg River Voëlvele Augmentation Scheme: Western Cape j. Rustfontein Water Treatment Works: Free State k. Orange-Riet Canal Increase of Bulk Raw Water Supply: Free State</p>	
<p>SIP 20: Energy a. Emergency/Risk Mitigation Power Purchase Procurement Programme (2000MW): National b. Small IPP Power Purchase Procurement Programme (100MW): National c. Embedded Generation Investment Programme (EGIP)-400MW: National</p>	
<p>SIP 21: Transport a. N1 Windburg Interchange to Windburg Station: Free State b. N1 Musina Ring Road: Limpopo c. N1 Polokwane Eastern Ring Rd Phase 2: Limpopo d. N1 Ventersburg to Kroonstad: Free State (2 projects in One) e. N2 Mtunzini Toll Plaza to Empangeni T-Junction: KwaZulu Natal. N3 Cato Ridge to Dardanelles: KwaZulu Natal g. N3 Dardanelles to Lynnfield Park: KwaZulu Natal h. N3 Paradise Valley to Mariannhill Toll Plaza: KwaZulu Natal i. N2 Edwin Swales to South of EB Cloete Interchange: KwaZulu Natal j. N3 Ashburton Interchange to Murray Road: KwaZulu Natal k. N3 Mariannhill Toll Plaza to Key Ridge: KwaZulu Natal l. N2 EB Cloete Interchange: KwaZulu Natal m. Small Harbours Development: National n. N3 New alignment via De Beers Pass: Free State o. Boegoebaai Port and Rail Infrastructure Project: Northern Cape</p>	
<p>SIP 22: Digital Infrastructure a. National Spatial Infrastructure Hub</p>	
<p>SIP 23: Agriculture and Agro-processing a. Marine Tilapia Industry: Eastern Cape b. Natural Dehydrated Foods: Mpumalanga</p>	

SIP 24: Human Settlements	
a. Greater Cornubia: KwaZulu-Natal	
b. Vista Park II & III: Free State	
c. Lufhereng: Gauteng	
d. Malibongwe Ridge: Gauteng	
e. N2 Nodal Development: Eastern Cape	
f. Matlosana N12 West: North West	
g. Green Creek: Gauteng	
h. Mooikloof Mega Residential City: Gauteng	
i. Fochville Extension 11: Gauteng	
j. Germiston Ext 4 Social Housing Project: Gauteng	
k. Newcastle Hospital Street Social Housing Project: KwaZulu Natal	
l. Hull Street Social Housing Project Phase 1: Northern Cape	
m. Kwandokuhle Social Housing Project: Mpumalanga	
n. Phola Heights - Tembisa Social Housing Project: Gauteng	
o. Sondela Phase 2: Gauteng	
p. Willow Creek Estate: Mpumalanga	
q. Joe's Place Social Housing: Gauteng	
r. Jeppetown Social Housing Project (Unity House): Gauteng	
SIP 25: Rural Bridges "Welisizwe" Programme	
SIP 26: Rural Roads Upgrade Programme	
SIP 27: Upgrading and Repair of Township Roads in Municipalities Programme	
SIP 28: PV and Water Savings on Government Buildings Programme	
SIP 29: Comprehensive Urban Management Programme	
SIP 30: Digitising of Government Information Programme	
SIP 31: Removal of Alien Vegetation and Innovative Building Materials Programme	
SIP 32: National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP)	
SIP 33: Solar Water Initiatives Programme	
SIP 34: Student Accommodation	
SIP 35: SA Connect Phase 1B Programme	
SIP 36: Salvokop Precinct	

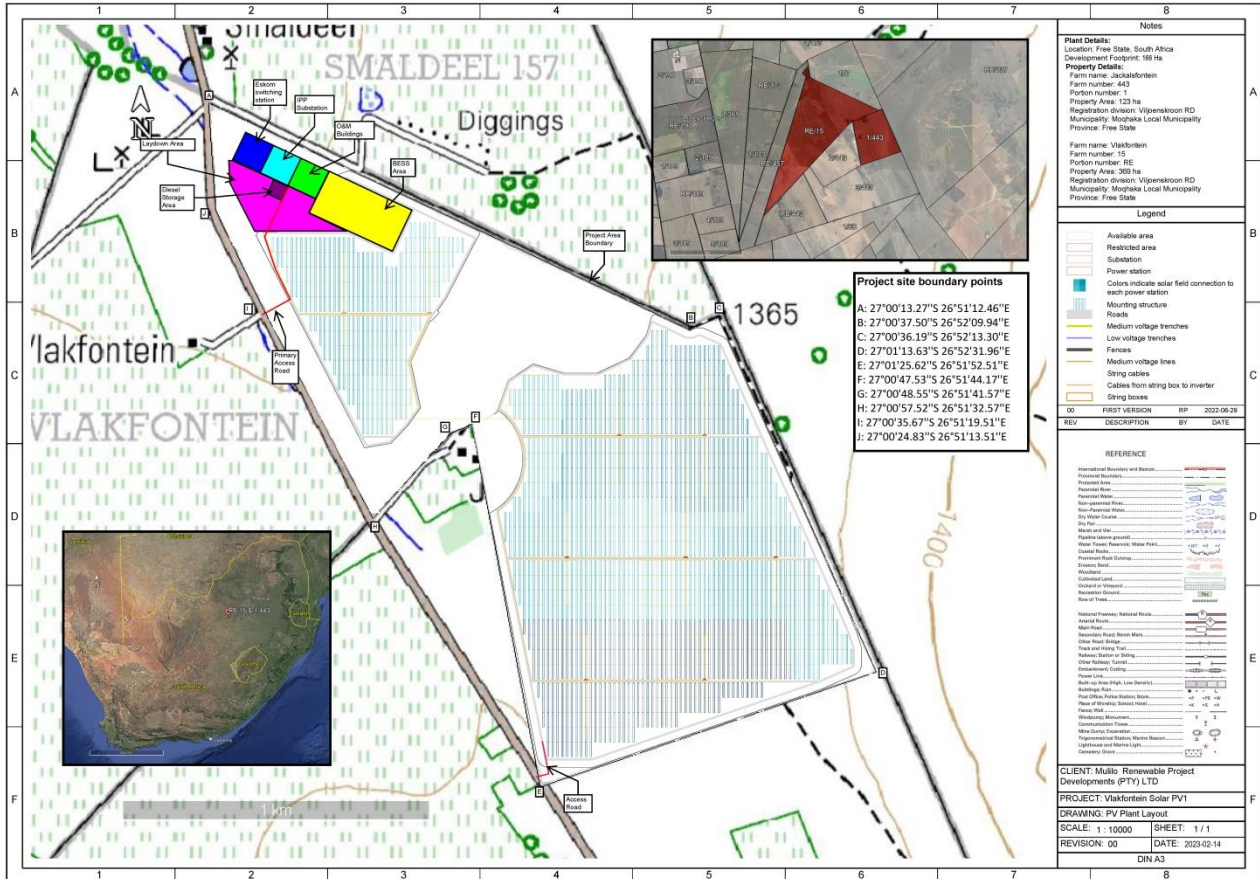
PLEASE ATTACH PROOF FROM THE RELEVANT SIP CO-ORDINATOR FOR EACH OF THE SIP PROJECT SELECTED.

Not applicable

APPENDIX 6

LIST OF SGIDS / COORDINATES OF THE BOUNDARY OF THE PROPERTY OR PROPERTIES / COORDINATES OF LISTED ACTIVITIES

Vlakfontein Solar PV1 Development Site (reference points of outside boundaries are provided)



A	27°00'13.27"S and 26°51'12.46"E
B	27°00'37.50"S and 26°52'09.94"E
C	27°00'36.19"S and 26°52'13.30"E
D	27°01'13.63"S and 26°52'31.96"E
E	27°01'25.62"S and 26°51'52.51"E
F	27°00'47.53"S and 26°51'44.17"E
G	27°00'48.55"S and 26°51'41.57"E
H	27°00'57.52"S and 26°51'32.57"E
I	27°00'35.67"S and 26°51'19.51"E
j	27°00'24.83"S and 26°51'13.51"E

IPP Substation

Northern point	27°00'17.85"S and 26°51'20.64"E
Eastern point	27°00'19.22"S and 26°51'23.85"E
Southern point	27°00'22.16"S and 26°51'22.34"E
Western point	27°00'20.86"S and 26°51'19.11"E

Operations & Maintenance Buildings

Northern point	27°00'19.22"S and 26°51'23.85"E
Eastern point	27°00'20.62"S and 26°51'27.17"E
Southern point	27°00'23.56"S and 26°51'25.66"E
Western point	27°00'22.16"S and 26°51'22.34"E

BESS Area

Northern point	27°00'20.62"S and 26°51'27.17"E
Eastern point	27°00'24.71"S and 26°51'37.03"E
Southern point	27°00'29.18"S and 26°51'34.72"E
Western point	27°00'25.13"S and 26°51'24.85"E

Diesel storage

Northern point	27°00'21.49"S and 26°51'20.66"E
Eastern point	27°00'22.16"S and 26°51'22.34"E
Southern point	27°00'23.64"S and 26°51'21.59"E
Western point	27°00'22.96"S and 26°51'19.92"E

Laydown area

North-west point	27°00'19.22"S and 26°51'15.34"E
North-eastern point 1	27°00'21.49"S and 26°51'20.66"E
North-eastern point 2	27°00'22.96"S and 26°51'19.92"E

North-eastern point 3	27°00'23.64"S and 26°51'21.59"E
North-eastern point 4	27°00'22.16"S and 26°51'22.34"E
North-eastern point 5	27°00'23.53"S and 26°51'25.59"E
North-eastern point 6	27°00'25.12"S and 26°51'24.79"E
South-eastern point	27°00'26.93"S and 26°51'29.36"E
South-western point	27°00'27.04"S and 26°51'18.51"E
Western point	27°00'21.34"S and 26°51'15.41"E

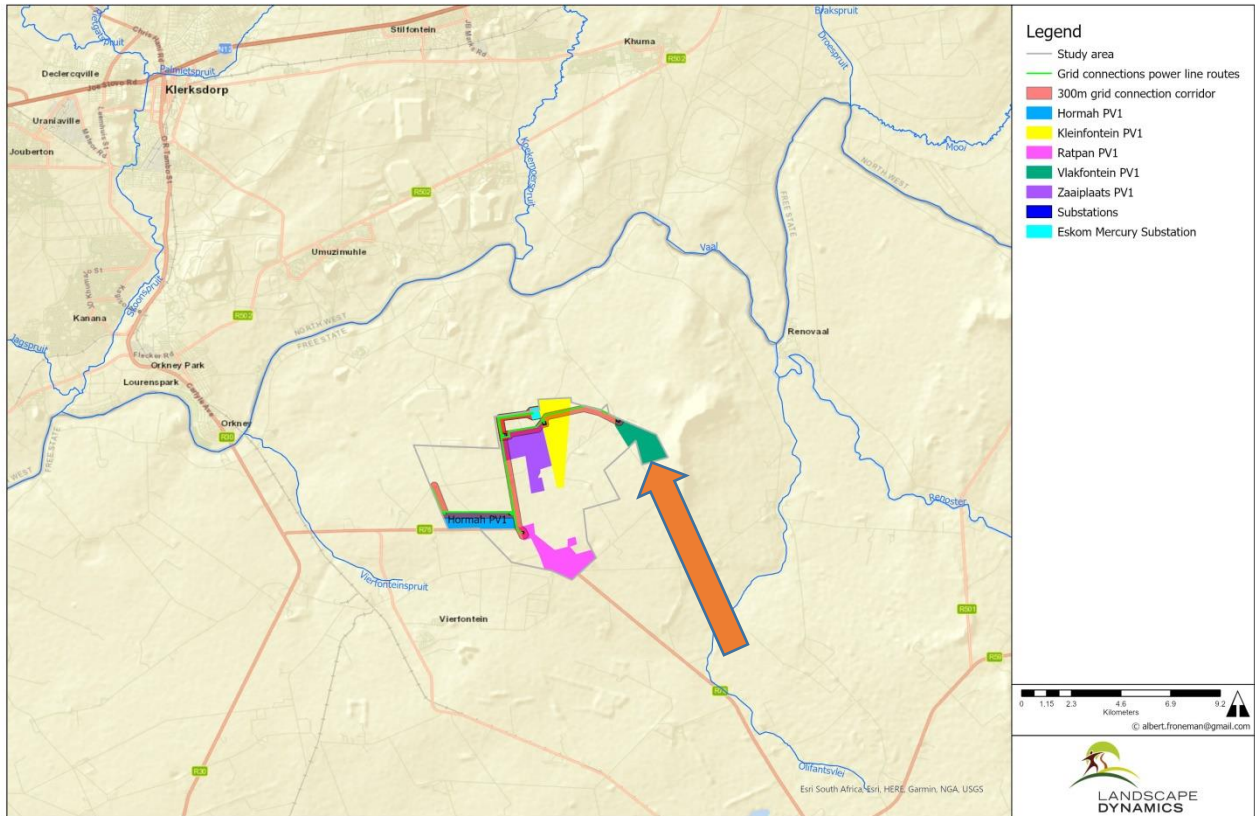
Primary (main) access road

Entrance of the S643 (Vermaasdrift Road)	27°00'36.07"S and 26°51'19.21"E
Turning point 1	27°00'34.22"S and 26°51'21.85"E
Turning point 2	27°00'33.56"S and 26°51'22.28"E
Turning point 3	27°00'27.68"S and 26°51'19.61"E
End point	27°00'22.16"S and 26°51'22.34"E

APPENDIX 7 LOCALITY MAP

The location of the Vlakfontein Solar PV1 is indicated with the brown arrow.

Mercury Solar PV Cluster: Locality Map



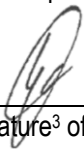
**APPENDIX 8
PROJECT SCHEDULE**

Activity	Month
Site Visit by Landscape Dynamics and specialists	November 2021
Screening Report completed	December 2021
<i>Public Participation & advertising</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement of newspaper ads 	March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement of onsite ads 	March 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of Background Information Document (30 day commenting period plus holidays) 	March 2022
Specialist studies finalised	November 2022
<i>Draft BAR</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft BAR sent to IAPs (30 day commenting period excluding holidays) 	March/April 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of Draft BAR and Application Form to DFFE 	March/April 2023
Submission of Final BAR to DFFE	May 2023
Date EA received (57 days decision making time frame)	July/August 2023
Notification to all I&AP's of EA and right to appeal	July-August 2023
20 days appeal period ended	August 2023

**APPENDIX 9
DECLARATION OF THE APPLICANT**

I, Warren Morse, declare that –

- I am, or represent¹, the applicant in this application;
- I have appointed an Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to act as the independent EAP for this application / have obtained exemption from the requirement to obtain an EAP²;
- I will take all reasonable steps to verify whether the EAP and specialist/s appointed are independent and have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments or undertaking specialist work as required, including knowledge of the Act, the EIA Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will provide the EAP and the Competent Authority with access to all information at my disposal that is relevant to the application;
- I will be responsible for the costs incurred in complying with the Regulations, including but not limited to –
 - costs incurred in connection with the appointment of the EAP or any person contracted by the EAP;
 - costs incurred in respect of the undertaking of any process required in terms of the Regulations;
 - costs in respect of any fee prescribed by the Minister or MEC in respect of the Regulations;
 - costs in respect of specialist reviews, if the Competent Authority decides to recover costs; and
 - the provision of security to ensure compliance with conditions attached to an environmental authorisation, should it be required by the Competent Authority;
- I will inform all registered interested and affected parties of any suspension of the application as well as of any decisions taken by the Competent Authority in this regard;
- I am responsible for complying with the conditions of any environmental authorisation issued by the Competent Authority;
- I hereby indemnify the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the Competent Authority and all its officers, agents and employees, from any liability arising out of the content of any report, any procedure or any action which the applicant or EAP is responsible for in terms of these Regulations;
- I will not hold the Competent Authority responsible for any costs that may be incurred by the applicant in proceeding with an activity prior to obtaining an environmental authorisation or prior to an appeal being decided in terms of these Regulations;
- I will perform all obligations as expected from an applicant in terms of the Regulations;
- all the particulars furnished by me in this form are true and correct; and
- I am aware of what constitutes an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and that a person convicted of an offence in terms of Regulation 48(1) is liable to the penalties as contemplated in section 49B of the Act.
- I am aware that in terms of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, as amended (Act No. 107 of 1998) that no listed activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Competent Authority.



Signature³ of the applicant/ Signature on behalf of the applicant

Vlaktefontein Solar PV1 (Pty) Ltd

Name of company (if applicable)

16 May 2023

Date:

¹ If this is signed on behalf of the applicant, proof of such authority from the applicant must be attached. If the applicant is a juristic person, a signature on behalf of the applicant is required as well as proof of such authority.

² If exemption is obtained from appointing an EAP, the responsibilities of an EAP will automatically apply to the person conducting the environmental impact assessment in terms of the Regulations.

³ Only original signatures will be accepted. No scanned, copied or faxed signatures will be accepted. An EAP may not sign on behalf of an applicant.

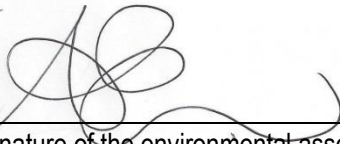
**APPENDIX 10
DECLARATION OF THE EAP**

I, Annelize Erasmus, declare that –

- I act as the independent environmental assessment practitioner in this application;
- I have expertise in conducting environmental impact assessments, including knowledge of the Act, Regulations and any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity;
- I will comply with the Act, Regulations and all other applicable legislation;
- I will perform the work relating to the application in an objective manner, even if this results in views and findings that are not favourable to the applicant;
- I will take into account, to the extent possible, the matters listed in Regulation 13 of the Regulations when preparing the application and any report relating to the application;
- I undertake to disclose to the applicant and the Competent Authority all material information in my possession that reasonably has or may have the potential of influencing - any decision to be taken with respect to the application by the Competent Authority; and - the objectivity of any report, plan or document to be prepared by myself for submission to the Competent Authority, unless access to that information is protected by law, in which case it will be indicated that such information exists and will be provided to the Competent Authority;
- I will perform all obligations as expected from an environmental assessment practitioner in terms of the Regulations; and
- I am aware of what constitutes an offence in terms of Regulation 48 and that a person convicted of an offence in terms of Regulation 48(1) is liable to the penalties as contemplated in Section 49B of the Act.

Disclosure of Vested Interest (delete whichever is not applicable)

- I do not have and will not have any vested interest (either business, financial, personal or other) in the proposed activity proceeding other than remuneration for work performed in terms of the Regulations;
- ~~• I have a vested interest in the proposed activity proceeding, such vested interest being:~~



Signature of the environmental assessment practitioner

Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Name of company:

17 May 2023

Date

**APPENDIX 11
SCREENING TOOL REPORT**

Attached

APPENDIX 12
UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/AFFIRMATION

**Mercury Cluster Solar PV Project:
Vlakfontein Solar PV1 (100MW)**

**Remainder of Vlakfontein No 15
Portion 1 of Jackalsfontein No 443**

APPENDIX 12
UNDERTAKING UNDER OATH/ AFFIRMATION (For Application)

I, Annelize Erasmus, swear under oath / affirm that all the information submitted or to be submitted for the purposes of this application is true and correct.



Signature of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner


Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd

Name of Company

21 February 2023

Date

Signature of the Commissioner of Oaths

 Date: 22/02/2023

Commissioner of Oaths Ref No: B/1/W/2 Pretoria
Mandy Lynn Meiring

Date 22/02/2023
Manager Pretoria e-mail: mmeiring@ecpa.co.za