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December 13, 2022

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS REPORT

**FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC
(PV) FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE
REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, PORTION 3 OF FARM
GOEDE HOOP 26C AND OTHER PROPERTIES**

**BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**

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1. Introduction

The Public Participation Process (PPP) was undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, and took the Public Participation 2017 Guideline Document (DEA, 2017) into consideration.

2. Objectives of the public participation

The level of public participation was determined by taking into account the scale of the anticipated impacts of the proposed development, the sensitivity of the affected environment and the degree of controversy of the project, and the characteristics of the potentially affected parties. Based on the findings of the above considerations, and taking cognisance of the Covid-19 pandemic, it was decided to fulfil the minimum requirements of the public participation process outlined in the EIA Regulations, 2014 whilst taking precautions that avoid public gatherings. These precautionary measures are discussed in more detail under 4.1(e) of this report.

3. Identification of interested and affected parties

Over and above the erection of site notices at key intersections and on the property's boundary fence, placing an advert in the local newspaper and distributing a written notice to those I&APs identified in Regulation 41(2)(b), certain stakeholders, such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), were specifically approached and invited to participate in the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

Additional means of identifying potential stakeholders included:

- property and deeds search to identify all adjacent landowners and include them as directly affected I&APs; and
- a network or chain referral system according to which key stakeholders were asked to assist in identifying other stakeholders, including requesting in the circulated BID document: "Please can you be so kind as to distribute the attached notice(s) to other interested and affected parties falling under your jurisdiction, authority, control, or administration, such as other owners, persons in control or occupiers of common land. The third attachment entitled "Notice occupiers" has been abbreviated for the occupiers of land, including for example, the local labour or work force. Otherwise, you are welcome to provide their contact details to us, and we shall inform them directly."

4. Notification of interested and affected parties

All potential and registered interested and affected parties have the right to be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding proposals that may affect their lives or livelihoods. Early communication aims to build trust among participants, allow more time for public participation, and improve community analysis. It also increases opportunities to modify the proposed development to effectively address relevant issues and comments received during the public participation process.

To this affect potential and registered interested and affected parties were first notified about the proposed development on **18th February 2022** and given at least 30 days before the submission of the Application to register for the public participation process.

4.1 Method of notification

In terms of Regulation 41(2), notice of the application will be given to all potential interested and affected parties by -

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

- a. fixing a notice board at a place conspicuous to and accessible by the public at the boundary, on the fence or along the corridor of –
 - i. the site where the activity to which the application relates is or is to be undertaken; and
 - ii. any alternative site.

Three site notice boards were placed at various visible locations on the 16th February 2022, namely:

Site notice board No. 1 was placed on the boundary fence at the corner of portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26 and Portion 2 of the Farm Taaiboschfontain 41 (Latitude: 30°50'12.64"S Longitude: 24°23'19.70"E).

Site notice board No. 2 was placed on the entrance gate to the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26 C(Latitude: 30°50'54.64"S Longitude: 24°19'29.00"E).

Site notice board No. 3 was placed at the intersection of the N10 highway with the District road to Burgerville (Latitude: 30°52'31.61"S Longitude: 24°13'27.31"E).

There are no alternative sites.

See **Annexure A: Site Notice Board Locations** and **Annexure B: Site Notice Boards**

- b. giving written notice to –
 - the occupiers of the site and, if the proponent or applicant is not the owner or person in control of the site on which the activity is to be undertaken, the owner or person in control of the site where the activity is to be undertaken, and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken,
 - owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken,
 - the municipal councillor of the ward in which the site and alternative site is situated and any organisation of ratepayers that represent the community in the area,
 - the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area,
 - any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, and
 - any other party as required by the competent authority.

The written notice was prepared in two different formats. The full format (**Annexure D1**) or Background Information Document (BID), was intended for landowners, whereas the simplified and abbreviated version (**Annexure D2**) was intended for the occupiers of land, e.g., farm workers. An English and Afrikaans version of each format was prepared.

Email distribution of the written notices (**Annexure D3**) to the owners or persons in control of land adjacent to the application site commenced on 17th February 2022. Email submissions included a request for a “delivery receipt” and a “read receipt.” Landowners or persons in

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

control were kindly requested to provide copies of the abbreviated format to any occupiers of their land or land under their control.

The proponent or applicant, Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd (represented by Jean Paul de Villiers) is not the owner (or person in control) of the site. The landowner, De Bad Familie Trust (represented by Willem Retief), was included in the distribution of the written notice and requested to forward the notice to any occupiers of the site.

Additional recipients of the written notices included *inter alia* the municipal councillor of the ward, any organisation of ratepayers, the Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality and State departments that administer a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to this application, such as the regional Department of Water and Sanitation (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency) and the South African Heritage Resources Agency (a case No. 17965 was created and the BID was uploaded on their online platform called SAHRIS - **Annexure D4**).

A full list of identified potential I&APs is not included in this report in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), but is available to the Department upon request. On the other a hand, the register of registered I&APs is readily available in **Annexure G**.

- c. placing an advertisement in –
- i. one local newspaper; or
 - ii. any official Gazette that is published specifically for the purpose of providing public notice of applications or other submissions made in terms of these Regulations;

An advertisement was published on the inner back page of a local newspaper in De Aar, called the “The/Die Echo” on 18th February 2022 (**Annexure C**)

A link to the advertisement was also provided to Mr JR Ranelo (lranelo@emthanjeni.co.za) at the Emthanjeni Local Municipality so that he could post it on the municipal Facebook page (Email sent on Monday, 21 February 2022 14:05)

- d. placing an advertisement in at least one provincial newspaper or national newspaper, if the activity has or may have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the metropolitan or district municipality in which it will be undertaken.

The proposed activity shall not have an impact that extends beyond the boundaries of the local or district municipality in which it will be undertaken.

- e. using reasonable alternative methods, as agreed to by the competent authority, in those instances where a person is desirous of but unable to participate in the process due to illiteracy, disability or any other disadvantage.

Public meetings will be avoided. Any person or official desirous of a meeting will be hosted individually.

Hard copies of reports will not be printed and placed in public places. Instead, digital copies will be distributed electronically. A hard copy will be posted to any person or official desirous of a hard copy.

“Afrikaans is the home language of almost two thirds of the residents in Ward 6” (Social

Scoping Report April 2022 prepared by Equispectives Research & Consulting Services). Considering that Afrikaans is widely spoken in the De Aar Area, the written notice or Background Information Document (BID) shall be prepared and distributed in both English and Afrikaans.

“About two fifths of the people in Ward 6 aged 20 years or older have no schooling or only some primary education. This is higher than on local, district or provincial level. These high levels of illiteracy should be taken into consideration when consulting with farmworkers or communities on the project” (Social Scoping Report April 2022 prepared by Equispectives Research & Consulting Services) – A simplified English and Afrikaans version of the Background Information Document (BID) shall be made available to landowners during the email distribution of the BID, specifically for the attention of their farmworkers.

A Social Impact Assessment shall be undertaken by Equispectives Research & Consulting Services, using methodologies which ensure the affected communities are consulted in a way that is most appropriate to the community.

In terms of Regulation 42, all organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity and all persons who submitted written comments, attended meetings with the applicant, proponent or EAP, or who requested, in writing, to be registered will be placed on a register of interested and affected parties (**Annexure G**).

4.2 Proof of notification

Proof of Notification via email is provided in **Annexure D3** for the Background Information Document (17 February 2022), the Draft Scoping Report (13 June 2022), acknowledgment from the Competent Authority (DFFE) on the online submission of the Application for Environmental Authorization and DSR onto the Sfiler system which was uploaded on 10 June 2022 as well as proof of the email notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report which was circulated for the 30 day public comment period on 10 November 2022.

5. Notification of interested and affected parties of reports and other studies

Reports, including specialist studies were made available to registered I&APs by loading the documents onto our website (www.ecoleges.co.za) and then emailing the link and password to them. Proof of Notification via email is provided in **Annexure D3** for the Background Information Document (17 February 2022), the Draft Scoping Report (13 June 2022), acknowledgment from the Competent Authority (DFFE) on the online submission of the Application for Environmental Authorization and DSR onto the Sfiler system which was uploaded on 10 June 2022 as well as proof of the email notification of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report which was circulated for the 30 day public comment period on 10 November 2022.

Proof of follow up attempts that were made to obtain comments from registered I&APs via email and/or telephone calls is attached as **Annexure D6**.

6. Proof of Open Communication with Adjacent Landowners

Due to security concerns in the area it was important to maintain ongoing and open communication with adjacent landowners with regards to activity in the area as a result of various specialists who will be in the area conducting site assessments. Email notification was provided to adjacent landowners regarding the presence of various specialists in the area (**Annexure D5**).

Further, neighbours whose concerns were brought to us by a third party were also pro-actively approached and their comments address in the Comments and Response Report (**Annexure H**).

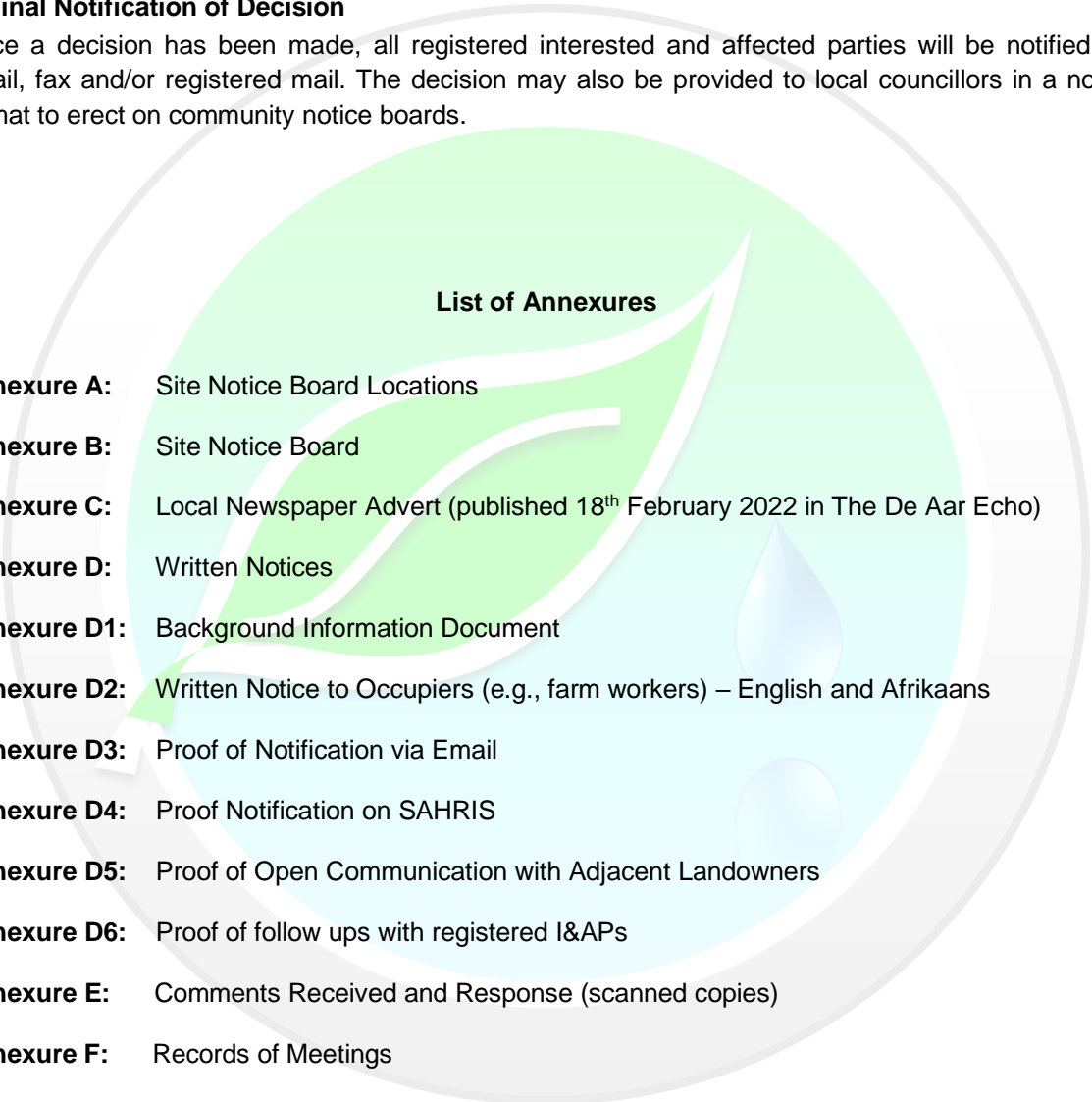
Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

7. Comments from interested and affected parties

Registered I&APs were given access to, and the opportunity to comment on, all written submissions via email, fax and/or registered mail. Email submissions included a request for a “delivery receipt” and a “read receipt,” The tracking number of any registered mail was sent to the I&AP via sms and/or WhatsApp to facilitate receipt of the document. All comments received from interested and affected parties (**Annexure E COPIES and Annexure I ORIGINALS**) were responded to and recorded in the Comments and Response Report (**Annexure H**).

8. Final Notification of Decision

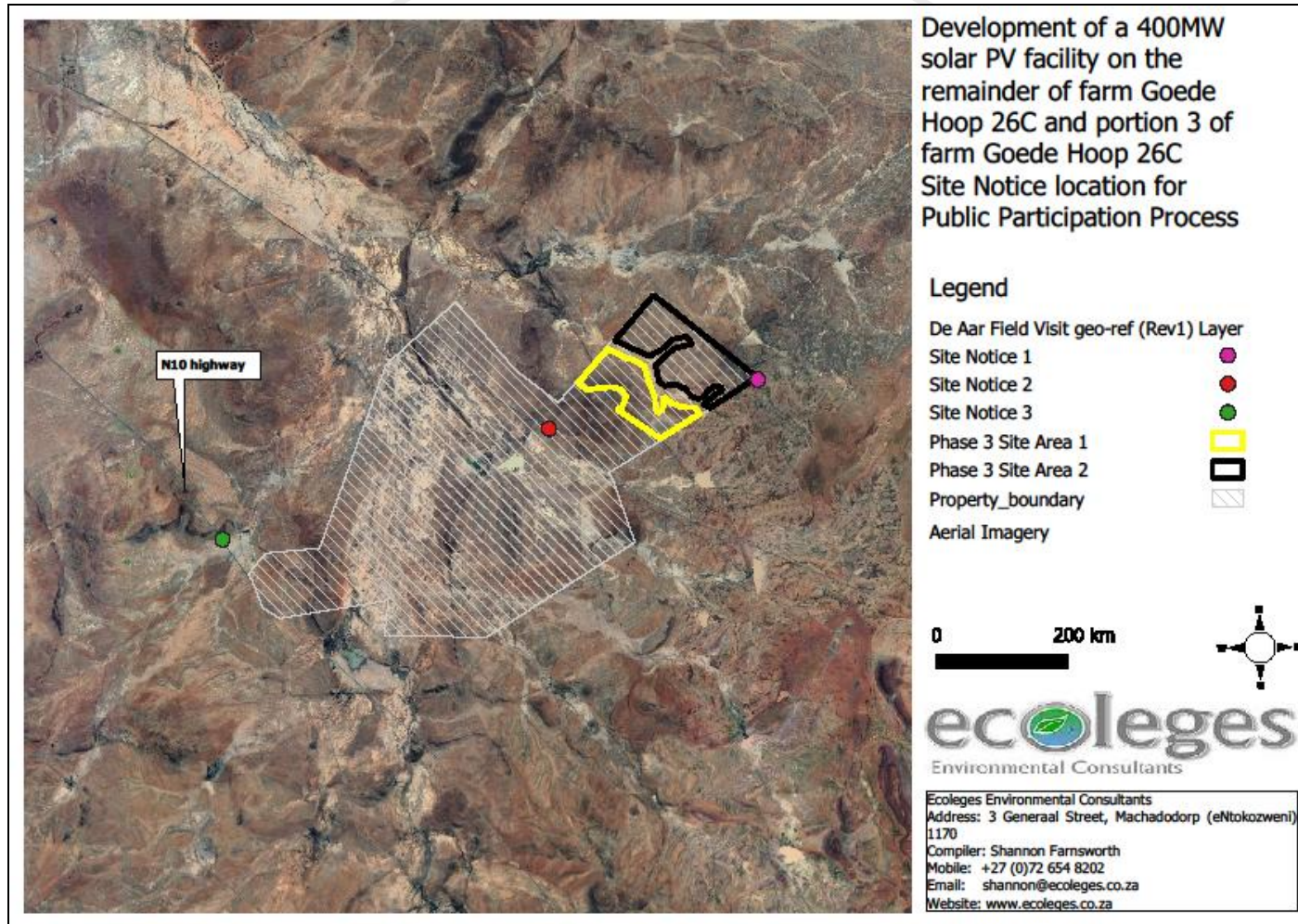
Once a decision has been made, all registered interested and affected parties will be notified via email, fax and/or registered mail. The decision may also be provided to local councillors in a notice format to erect on community notice boards.



List of Annexures

- Annexure A:** Site Notice Board Locations
- Annexure B:** Site Notice Board
- Annexure C:** Local Newspaper Advert (published 18th February 2022 in The De Aar Echo)
- Annexure D:** Written Notices
- Annexure D1:** Background Information Document
- Annexure D2:** Written Notice to Occupiers (e.g., farm workers) – English and Afrikaans
- Annexure D3:** Proof of Notification via Email
- Annexure D4:** Proof Notification on SAHRIS
- Annexure D5:** Proof of Open Communication with Adjacent Landowners
- Annexure D6:** Proof of follow ups with registered I&APs
- Annexure E:** Comments Received and Response (scanned copies)
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- Annexure H:** Comments and Response Report
- Annexure I:** Original Comments Received

Annexure A: Site Notice Board Locations



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure B: Site Notice Board

Notice...

is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended, and Section 47D of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, of an application for an Environmental Authorisation, as well as a Water Use Authorisation under the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

Date of Notice: 18th February 2022

Description of Activity

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

Water Use Authorisation (WUA)

Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development will be registered under the applicable General Authorisations with the regional office of the Department of Water & Sanitation: Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency, failing which an application for a Water Use License shall be submitted to the same Responsible Authority in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (GN No. R. 267 of 24th March 2017). The Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development are as follows:

- **21(a)** taking water from a water resource;
- **21(b)** storing of water;
- **21(c)** impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;
- **21(g)** disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource, and
- **21(i)** altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.

Environmental Authorisation (EA)

A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) shall be undertaken as part of an application for an EA. The application shall be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended to undertake the following potential listed activities:

LISTING NOTICE 1 (GN No. 327, 07th April 2017)

Listed Activity 11: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.

Listed Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m³ into...a watercourse;

Listed Activity 28: Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, ... on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 ha.

LN1, Listed Activity 48: The expansion of – (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; ... where such expansion occurs - (a) within a watercourse; ... or (c) ... within 32 m of a watercourse...

LISTING NOTICE 2 (GN No. 325, 07th April 2017)

Listed Activity 2: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 MW or more.

Listed Activity 15: The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

LISTING NOTICE 3 (GN No. 324, 07 April 2017)

Listed Activity 14: The development of – (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 m² or more; where such development occurs - (a) within a watercourse ... or (c) ... within 32 metres of a watercourse ...

Listed Activity 18: The widening of a road by more than 4 m, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 km.

Applicant:

Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Consultant:



Contact Person:

Shannon Farnsworth (*Reg. EAP*),

Cell: +27 (0)72 654 8202

Fax: +27 (0)86 697 9316,

E-Mail: shannon@ecoleges.co.za,

Postal: PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170

Website: www.ecoleges.co.za

Registration:

For further information and/or to be registered as an interested and affected party (I&AP) or to lodge a written objection, please submit in writing your name, contact details including address, and interest in the matter to the contact person and in the manner(s) provided above, at your earliest convenience. Reports shall be distributed for comment more than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Written comments or objections relating to the application for a water use authorisation must be lodged within 60 days of this notice, no later than 22nd April 2022.

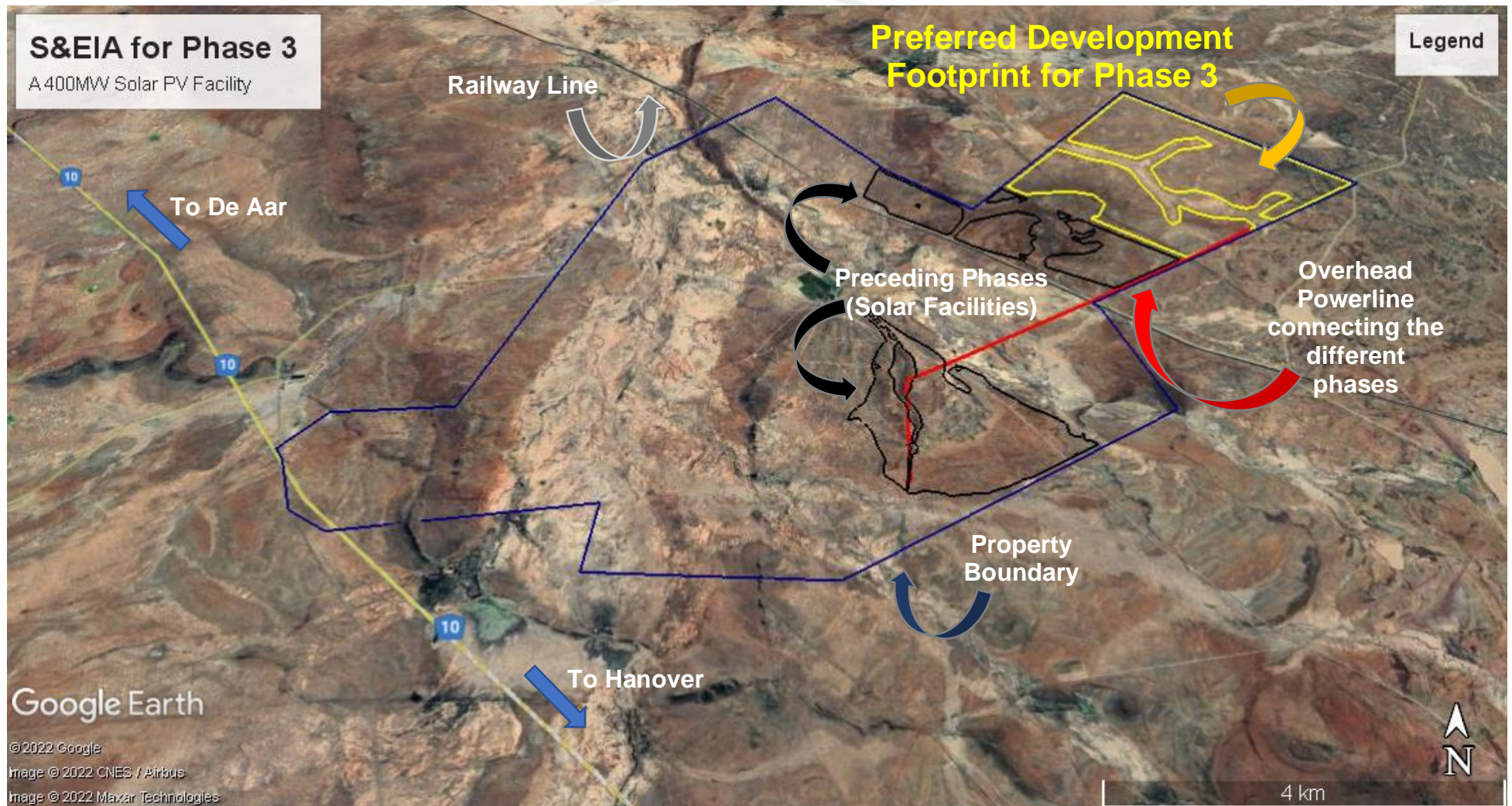
POPIA Disclaimer:

Should you submit written comments or attend meetings, request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, or if you are an organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity, then we are required in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to record your name, contact details and address in a register of interested and affected parties, as well as a disclosure of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in terms of EIA Regulation 43(1). Your personal information will be stored on a secure server explicitly for the public participation process (PPP) associated with this project but shall be retained indefinitely for historical and/or research purposes.

Other recipients of your personal information include registered I&APs, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation. Your participation in the PPP is voluntary. However, failure to supply the said information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered I&AP and opportunity to comment on reports and plans. For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013



Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover



Site Notice Board No. 1 was placed on the boundary fence at the corner of Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 2 of the Farm Taaiboschfontain 41 (Latitude: 30°50'12.64"S Longitude: 24°23'19.70"E).

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover



Site Notice Board No. 2 was placed on the entrance gate to the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C (Latitude: 30°50'54.64"S Longitude: 24°19'29.00"E).

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover



Site Notice Board No. 3 was placed at the intersection of the N10 highway with the District Road to Burgerville (Latitude: 30°52'31.61"S Longitude: 24°13'27.31"E).

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure C: Local Newspaper Advert (published 18th February 2022 in The De Aar Echo)

NOTICE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS (PPP) NOTICE TO UNDERTAKE AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) AND A WATER USE AUTHORISATION (WUA)

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended, and Section 47D of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended, of an application for Environmental Authorisation, as well as a Water Use Authorisation under the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998).

Description of the proposed development:
The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

Water Use Authorisation (WUA):
Section 21 water uses will be registered under the applicable General Authorisations with the regional office of the Department of Water & Sanitation (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency), failing which an application for a Water Use License shall be submitted to the same Responsible Authority in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (GN No. R. 267 of 24th March 2017). The Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development are as follows:

- 21(a) taking water from a water resource;
- 21(b) storing of water;
- 21(c) impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;
- 21(g) disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource, and
- 21(i) altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.

Environmental Authorisation (EA)
A Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) shall be undertaken as part of an application for an EA. The application shall be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended to undertake the following potential listed activities:

Listing Notice 1 (GN No. 327, 07th April 2017):
Listed Activity 11: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.

Listed Activity 19: The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 m³ into . . . a watercourse;

Listed Activity 28: Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, . . . on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development: (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 ha.

LN1, Listed Activity 48: The expansion of – (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more, . . . where such expansion occurs – (a) within a watercourse, . . . or (c) . . . within 32 m of a watercourse . . .

Listing Notice 2 (GN No. 325, 07th April 2017):
Listed Activity 2: The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more.

Listed Activity 15: The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.

Listing Notice 3 (GN No. 324, 07 April 2017):
Listed Activity 14: The development of – (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 m² or more; where such development occurs – (a) within a watercourse or (c) within 32 m of a watercourse . . .

Listed Activity 18: The widening of a road by more than 4 m, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 km.

For further information and/or to be registered as an interested and affected party (I&AP) or to lodge a written objection, please submit in writing your name, contact details including postal and email address, and interest in the matter to the contact person and in the manner(s) provided below, at your earliest convenience — Reports shall be distributed for comment more than 30 days from the date of this notice. Date of publication of this notice: 18th February 2022.

Written comments or objections relating to the application for a water use authorisation must be lodged within 60 days of this notice, no later than 22nd April 2022.

Applicant: Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Consultant: Ecologes Environmental Consultants
Contact person: Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP), Cell: 072 654 8202, Fax: 086 607 9316, e-mail: shannon@ecologes.co.za, PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170, www.ecologes.co.za

Competent Authority (EA): Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform
Responsible Authority (WUA): Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency (Upington Lower Orange WMA)

POPIA Disclaimer: Kindly be advised that should you submit written comments or attend meetings, request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, or if you are an organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity, then we are required in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to record your name, contact details and address in a register of interested and affected parties, as well as a disclosure of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in terms of EIA Regulation 43(1). Your personal information will be stored on a secure server explicitly for the PPP associated with this project but shall be retained indefinitely for lawful, historical and/or research purposes. Other recipients of your personal information include registered I&APs, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation. Your participation in the PPP is voluntary. However, failure to supply the said information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered I&AP and opportunity to comment on reports and plans. For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), including your Section 5 Rights as a data subject, visit www.popia.co.za

Soeke na 'n lewe van sin en betekenis: Ons moet God se geure en kleure wees

ADELAIDE — SKRIFLESING: Mat 5:13-16. Eugene Peterson in The Message, vertaal Mat 5:13-16 as volg: "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage."

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you?"

"I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."

Dr. Chris van Wyk lig twee sake uit. Die soute-metafoor word vertaal met "God-flavors" en die lig-metafoor word vertaal met "God-colors". Ons moet met ander woorde God se geure en kleure wees in hierdie wêreld. Ons moet geur en kleur gee aan hierdie wêreld.

Ons roeping in die lewe kom daarop neer dat: - Mense God moet kan proe in hoe ons lewe en hoe ons optree. - Mense God moet kan sien in hoe ons optree.

Dit is twee van ons vernaaemste sinne, naamlik om te kan proe en te kan sien.

(1) Die eerste oeroep is, dat ons "God-flavors" sal versprei. Ons praat van "sout van die aarde mense". Dan bedoel ons dit is goeie mense. Maar voordat ek dit kan word, moet ek eers "sout vir die aarde" word.

Sout is iets alledaags en baie goed bekend. In die anhele wêreld het sout selfs meer funksies as vandag gehad. Hier is 'n paar eienskappe van sout: Sout gee smaak. Deur 'n bietjie sout by kos te gooi, kry die voedsel smaak. Net so bring gelowiges smaak in die wêreld.

Sout preserveer. Voordat vrieskaste beskikbaar was, is sout gebruik om vleis te bewaar. Bitong en snoek is 'n lekkerny, omdat dit gesout word. Sout preserveer. As gelowiges is ons soos sout wat die lewe preserveer. Die wêreld word 'n veiliger plek waar mense wat die dinge van die Here doen, hulle invloed uitoefen. Misdaad daal, respek vir lewe neem toe, en die waardes van integriteit, liefde, omgee en beskerming styg.

Sout genees bederf en verrotting. In die ou tyd is wonde met sout uitgewas om infeksie te verhoed. Na jou tand getrek is, kan jy jou mond gereeld met soutwater uitspoel. Mense met sinusprobleme gebruik gereeld 'n bietjie soutwater.

Ons gooi sout in ons skotelgoedwassers om dit skoon te maak. Sout se krag lê daarin dat dit 'n verskillende "in" wêreld wat bedorwenheid en verrotting so maklik plasvind. Christene moet die agteruitgang van die samelewing keer en help stuit, deur hulle getuienis.

Sout offer self op. Sout werk net as dit uit die soutpot gegooi word. Sout kry sy bestans-

reg net as dit gebruik word. Sout moet oplet voordat dit voordeel en smaak kan bring.

In die destydse Palestina was die kwaliteit van sout wisselvallig. Nie alle sout was ewe goed nie. Die swak sout gaan af, en het geen krag nie. Dit word weggegooi en vertrap.

Jesus gebruik die beeld van sout wat verslaam om die godsdiens van die Fariseërs en Skrifgeleerdes te beskryf. Jesus kon sien hoe die Fariseërs en die Skrifgeleerdes godsdiens op 'n manier bedryf het wat sy krag verloor het, deur mensgemaakte, wetiese prosedures voorop te stel. 'n Mens kry tot vandag toe mense wat die dien van die Here verwar met tradisie. Ten diepste is dit 'n selfgesentreerde vorm van godsdiens eerder as die uitgang van jou lewe in diens van ander.

(2) Die tweede oeroep is dat ons "God-colors" sal versprei.

Lig is 'n basiese element van die lewe. Met die skaping het God lig geskep. Die duisternis was voor die lig. Maar God het lig in die duisternis geskep, sodat daar dag en nag kan wees. Christus het ook gekom as Lig vir die wêreld wat in sonde-duisternis verkeer.

Ferdinand Deist skryf treffend oor die lig-metafoor: "Waar Hy ook al gaan, bring Hy lig. bring Hy lewensruimte en lewensvrede. Elkeen wat met Hom in kontak kom, se lewe kry nuwe zin en betekenis: Saggies, Nihodemus, Maria, Magdalena, Petrus, Thomas, almal. Oral is Jesus bezig om God se shoppingslig aan te stook." Daarom, as ons die waardes van God se Koninkryk uitlewe, verdyf ons ook die duisternis uit ons hantse en uit die wêreld uit.

Mense kom na lig toe. Soos 'n kers motte aantrek, trek lig ook mense na die. Lig skep gemeenskap tussen mense. Jesus Christus het ook bedoel dat Sy lig die menses van die wêreld moet nadereik.

Jesus se lig moet ook ons lense verlig. In die Bybelse tyd was daar net een-vertrek Daar was die lig het in die hele lense verlig. Daar was nie donker plekkies in die lens nie. So moet Jesus se lig ook lig kom gee in ons lense, hullewiel en gesinne. Natuurlik se ons skrifgeleerde dat Jesus se lig bedoel is vir die hele wêreld.

Dit is 'n verskillende sleutel advertensie vir die Christendom as Christene nie sigbaar in die wêreld is nie. Spurgeon het treffend opgemerk dat Christus in die woonvertrek moet skyn, eerder as die gastekamer.

Daarmee bedoel hy dat Christus elke dag gelewe moet word en nie slegs by spesiale geleenthede om ons beter te laat vertoon nie. Ons is nie geheime diens-agente van die Here nie.

Gerard Henning skryf dat 'n dissipel sy dissipelskap net so min kan wegsteek as wat 'n lig sy strale kan wegsteek. 'n Christen hoort in die middel van die wêreld soos 'n lamp in die middel van 'n vertrek.

Mag ons soos Eugene Peterson skryf, "God-flavors" en "God-colors" op hierdie aarde en in die wêreld wees. AMEN

(Dr. Paul Odendaal is leraar van die NG Kerk Adelaide.)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Legal Aid SA hereby invites suitably qualified and reputable service providers to submit proposals for the following tender:

BK Number	Description	Closing Date and Time
43202	Removal of Office Accommodation on 11th Dr. Gert Louw (11th Dr. Gert Louw) (11th Dr. Gert Louw) (11th Dr. Gert Louw)	14 March 2022 @ 14:00

Invitation: R200; Price: R0 and R1000; Estimate level of contribution: 20

Enquiries: NCA: 0800 20 20 20; Central: 021 461 1100; Email: NAPO@legalaid.co.za

For further information please contact: SA: 021 461 1100; Email: tender@legalaid.co.za

More information will be included in the bid document

The bid document for the tender may be available from the Legal Aid SA website www.legalaid.co.za or call us on the Contact Point from 14 February 2022

Bids should be submitted to the project manager and tender proposals are accepted in the electronic form of e-bidding through the SA Legal Aid SA e-bidding system. The bid should be submitted to the project manager by the closing date and time.

Only bids of a value of R200 000 or more will be considered.

DE AAR DRUKERS

POSBUS 44, DE AAR
Telefoon (053) 631-2851

VR SPOEDWERK DRUKERIJ VAN HOË GEHALTE

MIDLAND NUUS

POSBUS 224, CHADOCK
TELEFOON (048) 881-5300

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Annexure D: Written Notices

Annexure D1: Background Information Document – English (an Afrikaans version was created, but not included here to save space)

NOTIFICATION & BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)



Applications for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) and a Water Use Authorisation (WUA) for the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

Date of Notice: 18th February 2022

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information for the proposed project and to provide for objections, comments, and contributions from stakeholders, with regards to potential environmental and water use impacts – which includes, but is not limited to, ecological, social, economic, physical, aesthetic, etc.

When an applicant proposes to undertake a Section 21 water use in terms of the National Water Act (NWA, Act 36 of 1998) or a Listed Activity in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) as amended, an application must be made for authorisation. The applications must be supported by a report, which has been compiled following an assessment process.

Ecoleges has been appointed, in its capacity as an independent Environmental Consultant, to manage the Public Participation Process (PPP) as part of both the Water Use Authorisation and Environmental Authorisation processes.

Water use authorisation is proposed in terms of the applicable General Authorisations, failing which a Water Use License application will need to be undertaken in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017.

The Environmental Authorisation is to be undertaken via a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S & EIA) process in accordance with Regulations 21 - 24 of the amended EIA

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Regulations, 2014 promulgated in terms of sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended.

The Public Participation Process for the Environmental Authorisation and Water Use Authorisation applications must be undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and Section 17 of the Water Use License Application (WULA) and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (GN No. R. 267 of 24th March 2017), respectively. Ecoleges has also taken the Public Participation 2017 Guideline Document (DEA, 2017) into consideration.

BACKGROUND

In 2016 ecoleges undertook a S&EIA for the development of a 225 MW Solar PV facility between Hanover and De Aar in the Northern Cape. Three alternative footprints (PV01, PV02, PV03) were investigated during the assessment process. The central footprint (PV02) was identified as the preferred option because of its lower environmental impact and proximity to an existing 400kV Eskom powerline when compared with PV01 and PV03. The National Department of Environmental Affairs granted an environmental authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998) on 16th April 2018. The activity must commence on the PV02 footprint within a period of five years from the date of issue.

An amendment to increase the capacity (not the footprint) of the facility to 300 MW due to technological advancements in solar photovoltaic efficiency and electrical output was granted on 24th November 2020.

A second amendment was granted in 2021 for the inclusion of containerised lithium-ion battery Storage and dual-fuel backup generators with associated fuel storage.

The competent authority was the National Department of Environmental Affairs because the application was part of the REIPPP or RMIPPP BID rounds, which formed part of a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) as described in the National Development Plan, 2011. Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd was an unsuccessful bidder. However, the applicant has since partnered with another company, Solar Africa, with 1.5 GW in private renewable energy offtake agreements, making it economically feasible to develop two more 300 and 400 MW facilities (Phases 2 and 3, respectively).

Soventix will therefore apply for an environmental authorisation to develop an additional 300MW on the PV03 footprint (Phase 2) that was considered during the initial S&EIA. It is proposed to connect this second phase to the substation that forms part of the authorised facility on PV02.

Unlike footprints PV02 and PV03, Phase 3 was not assessed during the S&EIA for Phase 1. Phase 3 involves the development of a third 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C.

The two additional Solar PV facilities (Phase 2 and 3) will feed into the authorised sub-station on the PV02 footprint (Phase 1). Consequently, the expansion of the substation footprint will require a third (Part 2) amendment to the existing environmental authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Solar PV System

A single PV device is known as a cell. To boost the power output of PV cells, they are connected in chains to form larger units known as modules or panels. Each module is 2.2 by 1.1 m (or 2,42 m²) in size. Modules are connected to form arrays and mounted on to a rack that points the panels toward the sun. The results of the geotechnical assessment will determine whether the racks and panels are held in place by either a ballast or piled foundation. Two rows of twenty-three modules each will be

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attached to a steel and aluminium rack. Consequently, each rack would accommodate approximately 110 m² of panel. Solar arrays will be orientated in a northern direction and track the sun from east (55°) to west (-55°). The arrays shall be placed approximately 7.4 m apart. Several arrays are then connected to an inverter. The inverters convert the voltage from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). Inverters at the end of panel mounting structures are cabled to field transformers. The field transformers then transfer and increase (step up) the voltage of the alternating-current circuit to Eskom's electrical grid via an onsite substation.

The size of the proposed development footprint for a 400 MW solar PV facility is approximately 600 ha (1.5 ha per MW). As far as possible, arrays will be arranged in four 100 MW blocks of approximately 150 ha each. There will be five inverters per MW (500 inverters per 100 MW block, or 2000 inverters for 400 MW). Twenty-five inverters are connected to a field transformer, so there will be twenty field transformers per 100MW (or 80 field transformers for 400 MW).

All four 100 MW blocks will feed into an on-site substation. This on-site substation will then be linked to the on-site substation on Phase 2 via overhead (approximately 20 m high) distribution lines (most likely to be a 33kV connection) along a 32 m wide servitude.

Operational Area

The operational area comprises a controlled access, single-storey building, unpaved parking, and a sewerage treatment plant. The building shall be constructed from brick with metal sheet roofing and include space for an office, ablutions (incl. change rooms), medical room, control room, kitchen, storeroom, and workshop.

Services (Water, Domestic Wastewater, Electricity and Waste)

There are several existing boreholes on site, which will be used to abstract groundwater for construction and operational phases. The abstracted water shall be stored in aboveground JoJo type storage tanks. The tanks shall be located near the single storey building in the operational area.

A maximum of 2 kL of domestic wastewater, including sewerage, shall be generated each day, and treated to special limits with a bio-box package plant.

Electricity during construction and operation will be obtained from Eskom via the existing supply to the site.

General waste will be disposed of at the De Aar licensed landfill site. Electrical waste will be either recycled or disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste landfill.

Roads

Existing roads will be upgraded, and new roads will be built, that is graded, shaped for runoff, and compacted to access the laydown area, construction camp, and components of the PV system, including the operational area, the on-site substation and to each field transformer. Passing lanes will be placed at strategic areas. Precast box culverts or pipes will also be required where the access roads pass through a drainage line. Some road crossings may need to be widened to accommodate large delivery trucks.

Two-track access roads (4.4 to 4.5 m wide) will be constructed between the parallel arrays, and a 4 to 5 m wide fire break road, comprising a jeep track with cleared vegetation, will also be created inside the perimeter fence.

Fencing

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The facility will be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence or Clear View™ fencing, with controlled access using a security gate. Both areas (separated by a watercourse) will be fenced off within one perimeter fence.

Lighting

The facility will not be lit up at night. The fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness. The obvious areas that would have lights is the control and security office, as well as the on-site substation, which is a legal requirement.

Access

The main access is off the N10 between De Aar & Hanover, which enters the site from the west. The provincial unsurfaced road (Burgersville Road) and the existing farm access road will also be utilised.

Timing

The three phases will be built sequentially. There may be some overlap in that once civil works are complete the civils' team would move onto phase 2, etc. Even each 100MW block within each phase will be built sequentially, e.g., the first phase of 300MW would be built in 3 x 100MW blocks. This will limit the amount of people on site, as well as mitigate the need for massive amounts of equipment, storage etc.

Agricultural Activities

The current land use is sheep farming, which will continue within the solar PV facility to ensure minimal losses on agricultural potential of the land as well as control vegetation growth.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Water Uses

An application to register the Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development under the applicable General Authorisations will be submitted to the regional office of the Department of Water and Sanitation (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency), failing which an application for a Water Use License shall be submitted to the same Responsible Authority in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017. The Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development are as follows:

Section 21(a)	taking water from a water resource
Section 21(b)	storing of water
Section 21(c)	impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
Section 21(g)	disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
Section 21(i)	altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.

Listed Activities

An application for an EA will be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended to undertake the following potential listed activities:

Listing Notice 1 (GG No. 40772, GN No. 327, 07 April 2017)
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<p>Listed Activity 11</p>	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity - (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;</p> <p>excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is - (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>
<p>Listed Activity 19</p>	<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, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse; but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving— (a) will occur behind a development setback; (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies; (d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or (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>Listed Activity 28</p>	<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: (i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional purposes.</p>
<p>Listed Activity 48</p>	<p>The expansion of – (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or (ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such expansion [or expansion and related operation] occurs - (a) within a watercourse; (b) in front of a development setback; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a</p>

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	<p>watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>excluding -</p> <p>(aa) the expansion 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 expansion 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 expansion occurs within an urban area; or</p> <p>(ee) where such expansion occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 2 (GG No. 40772, GN No. 325, 07 April 2017)</p>	
Listed Activity 2	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs -</p> <p>(a) within an urban area; or</p> <p>(b) on existing infrastructure.</p>
Listed Activity 15	<p>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3 (GG No. 40772, GN No. 324, 07 April 2017)</p>	
Listed Activity 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;</p> <p>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>g. Northern Cape</p> <p>i. In an estuary;</p>

	<p>ii. Outside urban areas: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; no (cc) World Heritage Sites; (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; (ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; as above (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves; (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; (ii) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</p>
<p>Listed Activity 18</p>	<p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. g. Northern Cape i. In an estuary; ii. Outside urban areas: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; no (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; (dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves; (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 reserve; (hh) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined; or (ii) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland;</p>

PURPOSE OF THE S&EIA

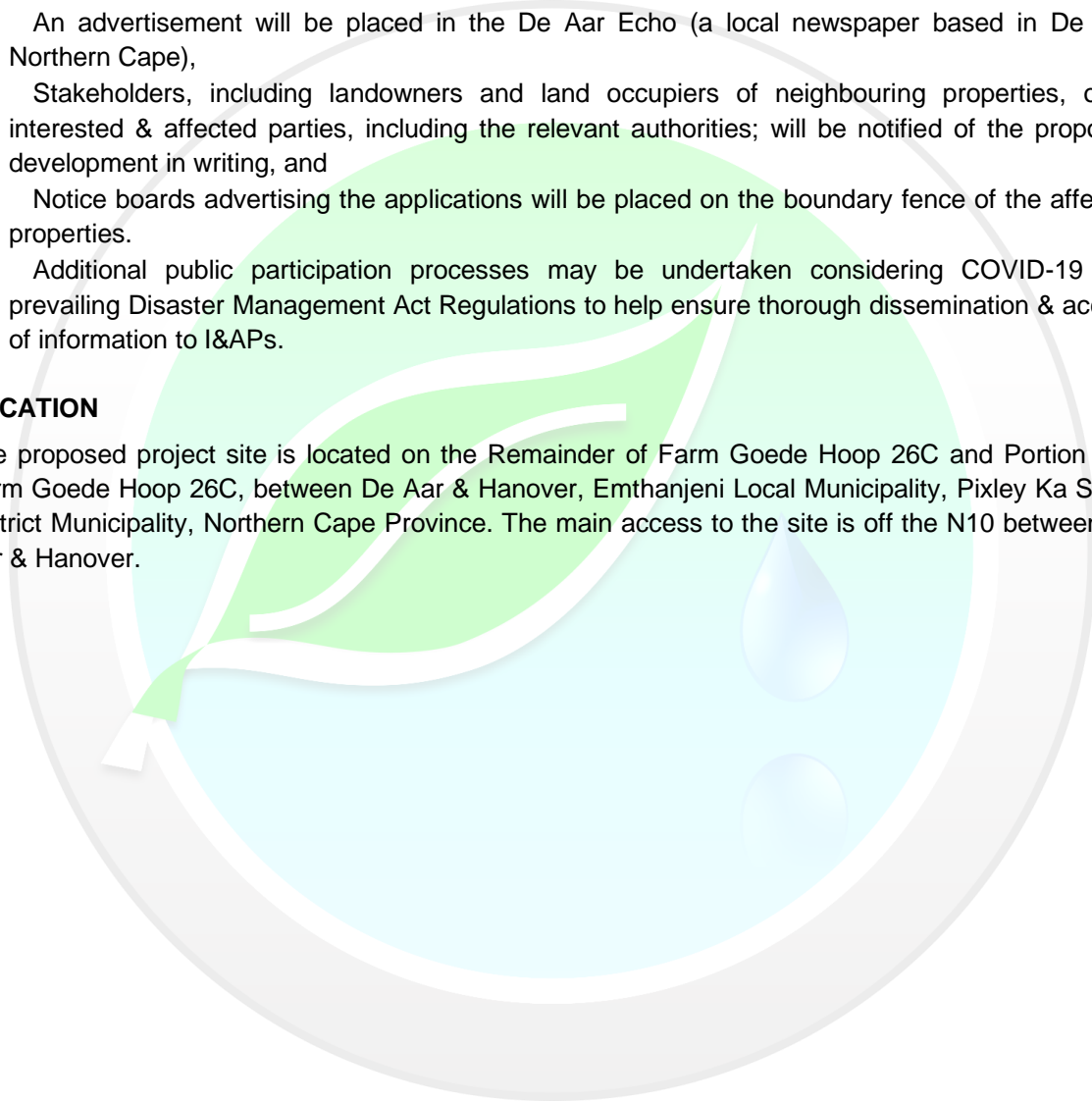
The overall objective is to undertake and complete a robust and defensible assessment process that will serve to inform the responsible authority's (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency (Upington Lower Orange WMA) and competent authority's (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform) decision on the acceptability of the proposed project.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

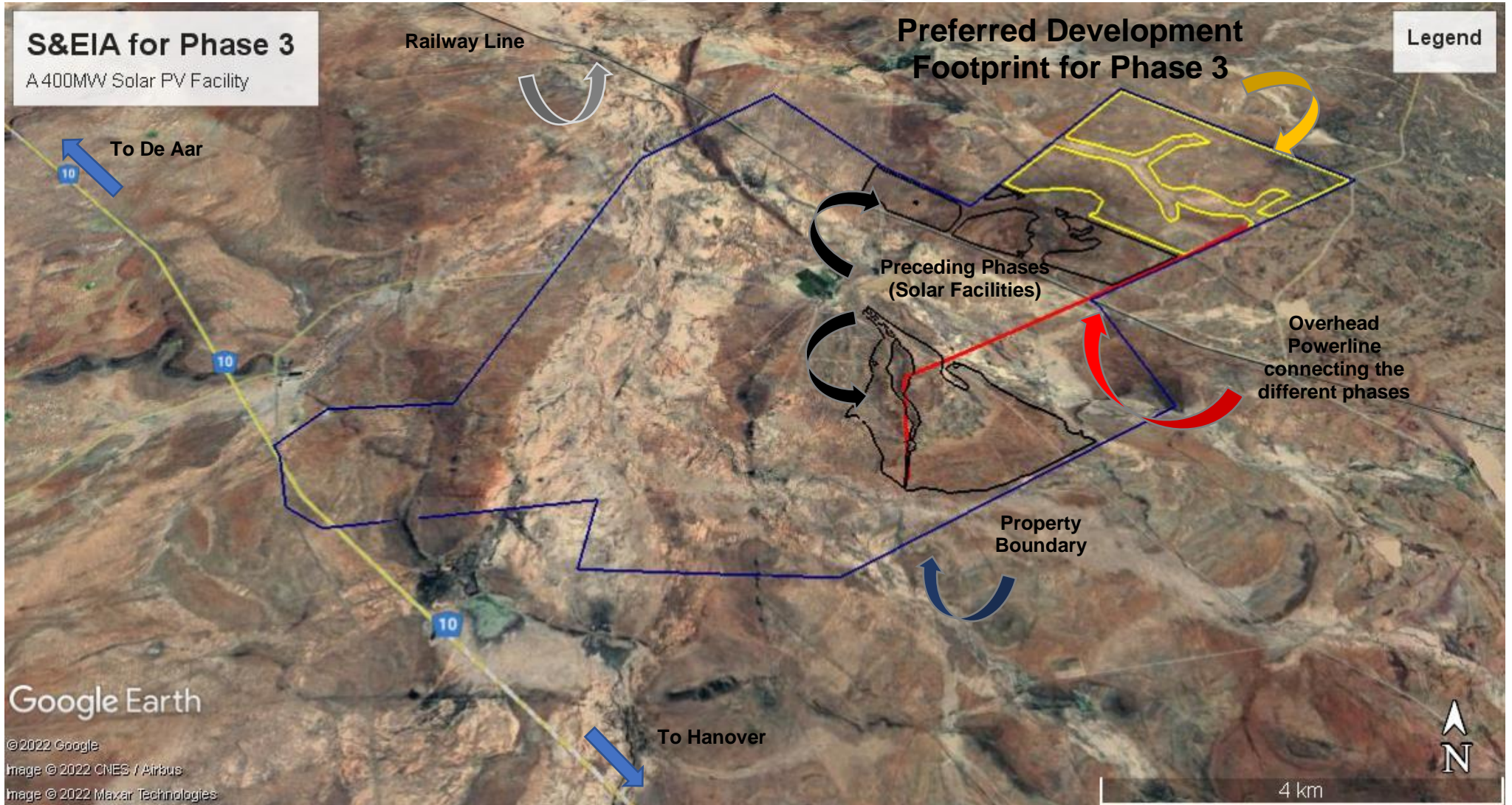
- An advertisement will be placed in the De Aar Echo (a local newspaper based in De Aar, Northern Cape),
- Stakeholders, including landowners and land occupiers of neighbouring properties, other interested & affected parties, including the relevant authorities; will be notified of the proposed development in writing, and
- Notice boards advertising the applications will be placed on the boundary fence of the affected properties.
- Additional public participation processes may be undertaken considering COVID-19 and prevailing Disaster Management Act Regulations to help ensure thorough dissemination & access of information to I&APs.

LOCATION

The proposed project site is located on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The main access to the site is off the N10 between De Aar & Hanover.



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ANTICIPATED ISSUES

Specialist Studies

The following specialist studies shall be undertaken, and are based on the outcomes of a Site Sensitivity Verification:

- Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Plant Species Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Avifauna Specialist Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Specialist Assessment
- Palaeontological Specialist Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Hydrology Assessment
- Geotechnical Assessment
- Bat Impact Assessment
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment

YOUR COMMENTS PLEASE!

Your comments on the proposed projects, the public participation process, and issues needing investigation, will assist the technical studies and the authorities in their consideration of the relevant environmental and social aspects.

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to assist us in:

- identifying possible impacts of the proposed development on the environment,
- making suggestions for mitigation and/or alternatives, and
- considering the “Need and Desirability”.

Mitigations

Mitigation measures will be developed for the anticipated issues. Stakeholders are however welcome to comment on these issues and provide additional observations.

NEMA and the EIA Regulations call for a hierarchical approach to impact management.

The Impact Mitigation Hierarchy

- *Firstly*, alternatives must be investigated to avoid negative impacts altogether.
- *Secondly*, after it has been found that the negative impacts cannot be avoided, alternatives must be investigated to reduce (mitigate and manage) unavoidable negative impacts to acceptable limits.
- *Thirdly*, alternatives must be investigated to remediate (rehabilitate and restore).
- *Fourthly*, unavoidable impact that remain after mitigation and remediation must be compensated for through investigating options to offset the negative impacts.
- *While throughout*, alternatives must be investigated to optimise positive impact.

Alternatives

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Consideration of “Alternatives” is one element of the S & EIA process. Its role is to provide a framework for sound decision-making based on the principle of sustainable development.

Alternatives should be identified as early as possible in the project cycle.

Ecoleges not only welcomes stakeholders’ input/suggestions, but also urges the public to submit possible alternatives.

It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to-

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity,
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken,
- (c) the design or layout of the activity,
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity,
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity, and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

When submitting alternatives, the recommended alternative must be:

- Practicable, Feasible, Relevant, Reasonable and Viable.

Need & Desirability

According to Regulation 13(1)(b) and 13(1)(e) read together with Regulation 18 of the amended EIA Regulations, 2014, EAPs and specialists must have knowledge of any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity and have regard to the need for and desirability of the undertaking of the proposed activity.

Considering that ‘Need and Desirability’ is determined by considering the broader societal/community needs and public interests, that is NOT the needs of the applicant/developer, we encourage you to also consider the Guideline on Need and Desirability published by DEA (2017) to help you identify key issues in respect of the need for and desirability of undertaking the proposed activity/development. The guideline is freely available on the web. However, we have also prepared a YouTube video that explains the intended concept of Need and Desirability:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0iHr-zE4TPzwhZjzoTPQMw>

The aim of the EIA process is to find that (reasonable and feasible) alternative that will ensure sustainable development. Consistent with the aforesaid aim and purpose of EIA, the concept of “need and desirability” relates to, amongst others, the nature, scale, and location of development being proposed, as well as the wise use of land.

Strictly speaking, “need” primarily refers to time and “desirability” refers to place, e.g., is this the right time and is it the right place for locating the type of land-use/activity being proposed? However, “need and desirability” are interrelated and the two components collectively can be considered in an integrated and holistic manner by engaging the **Questions** provided in the guideline document. The questions are divided into two broad categories relating to ecological sustainability (e.g., how the development will impact on ecosystems and biological diversity) and justifiable economic and social development.

We suspect the ecological category of questions address desirability and whether it is the right place, while the economic and social category of questions addresses broader societal needs, and whether

this is the right time.

Need and desirability is like a drawstring that pulls the assessment process together to decide on the best option. When the sum of the impacts (evaluated during the impact assessment) is considered holistically through the lens of Need and Desirability, that is by presenting them within the framework of questions posed by the guideline, then Need and Desirability becomes the overall impact summary to determine if the proposed activity is the best option or to decide on the fate of the application.

When collectively considering ecological, social, and economic impacts it is important to remember that while there might be some trade-offs between the considerations, all development must in terms of Section 24 of the Constitution be ecologically sustainable, while economic and social development must be justifiable. Consequently, there are specific “trade-off rules that apply, namely environmental integrity may never be compromised, and the social and economic development must take a certain form and meet certain specific objectives for it to be considered justifiable.

REGISTRATION

To ensure that you are registered as an interested and affected party, please complete the enclosed REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET and forward it to the address, fax or email provided below.

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 516
Machadodorp
1170

Fax: 086 697 9316

E-mail: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

ENQUIRIES

Please do not hesitate to visit us at our office or give us a call should you have any further queries or concerns regarding the listed activity(ies), water uses or development that is being proposed.

Physical address (Office):

2 Generaal Street
Machadodorp
1170

Cell: 072 654 8202 (Shannon Farnsworth) or 083 644-7179 (office)

Thank you for your participation!

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be submitted to the decision-making authority.

Please complete and return the below Registration and Comment Sheet and/or POPIA Consent Form at your earliest convenience:

- **A draft report shall be distributed for comment more than 30 days from the date of this document.**
- **Written comments or objections relating to the application for a water use authorisation must be lodged within 60 days of this notice, no later than 22nd April 2022.**

Note: To withdraw your consent at any time please email us directly, and we will immediately delete your information from our records. Thank you.

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Title: _____ Name: _____

Surname: _____

Company Name / Interest Group: _____

Postal or Residential Address: _____

Town / City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Tel: (_____) _____

Cell: _____

Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

A registered interested and affected party is entitled to object and comment, in writing, on all written submissions including draft reports made to the competent and/or responsible authority provided that - (c) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.

Please indicate with an **X** whether you would like to be kept informed of the GA & BA process.

YES, I would like to be kept informed	
NO, I am not interested	

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

If "YES", how would you like to be informed? (Please mark the appropriate block with an "X")

E-mail	
Fax	

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

POPIA CONSENT FORM

Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community, (v) a municipality, (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, or (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority, then we were required to give you notice in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2), and had to therefore derive your information, including name, contact details and address, from a public record. Alternatively, you may have been referred to us. If you are not an organ of state, did not submit written comments or attend meetings, did not request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, then we are not obligated in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to retain a record of your personal information in a register of interested and affected parties, and as such, must obtain proof of consent provided by yourself. To this effect, kindly confirm your consent by ticking the boxes below.

I, in my capacity as the data subject, give consent to ecoleges, in its capacity as the responsible party, to process my personal information for purposes of pursuing its legitimate interests or those of a third party to whom the information is supplied, but

limited to (1) the submission of reports or plans for comment, (2) transferring the same information to a third party, including registered interested and affected parties, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation, (3) submitting a copy of an appeal against a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and/or (4) submission of environmental audit reports (containing recommendations for amending the EMP) for comment.

- I hereby acknowledge that only the minimum personal information that is required to be processed for the purpose of the EIA Regulations (2014) will be processed, including my name, contact details, address, and disclosure on any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.
- I hereby confirm that the personal information, which I shall provide is mine, and that it is complete, accurate, not misleading and updated.
- I hereby acknowledge that my personal information is being collected explicitly for public participation processes associated with this project.
- Irrespective of the decision to grant or refuse an environmental authorisation, and irrespective of whether the scope of the authorisation includes operational or development aspects only, I hereby give consent to ecoleges to retain my records indefinitely for historical and/or research purposes.
- I understand, upon submitting my personal information to ecoleges, that it will be saved on their server, which meets the various conditional "Minimum Security Requirements" of their Cyber Insurance company, including *inter alia* firewalls to restrict access to digitally stored sensitive information, anti-virus software implemented on all desktops, laptops and sensitive systems, password controls implemented on sensitive systems, etc.
- I understand that ecoleges shall inform me when there are reasonable grounds to believe that my personal information has been accessed or acquired by any unauthorised person.
- I have read and understand my [Section 5 Rights](#) as a data subject including *inter alia*, the right to -
 - request access to my personal information,
 - request information about the identity of all third parties,
 - request ecoleges to correct, update, destroy or delete my personal information, and
 - lodge a complaint in writing to the [Information Regulator](#) if in my opinion the processing of information is not reasonable.

For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), which commenced on 01st July 2020, it is available at the following link: www.popia.co.za

Your participation in the Public Participation Process (PPP) is voluntary, but it is mandatory in terms of Regulation 42 and 43(1) of the amended EIA Regulations (2014) that we receive the relevant personal information for us to register you as an Interested and Affected Party, and for you to be entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans that we submit to you, respectively.

Failure to supply the information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered Interested and Affect Party.

Annexure D2: Written Notice to Occupiers (e.g., farm workers) – English and Afrikaans

Written Notice:

Soventix (Pty) Ltd wants to build a Solar PV Facility

What is going to happen? South Africa cannot make enough electricity to supply its people and economy. That's why we have "load shedding." And most (80%) of our electricity is made by burning coal, which is very bad for the environment and our health. So, a company, called Soventix, is going to build three solar PV facilities that make electricity using the sunshine. The third facility will use lots of solar panels to capture the sun's energy from a large area (600 ha) and change it into electricity.

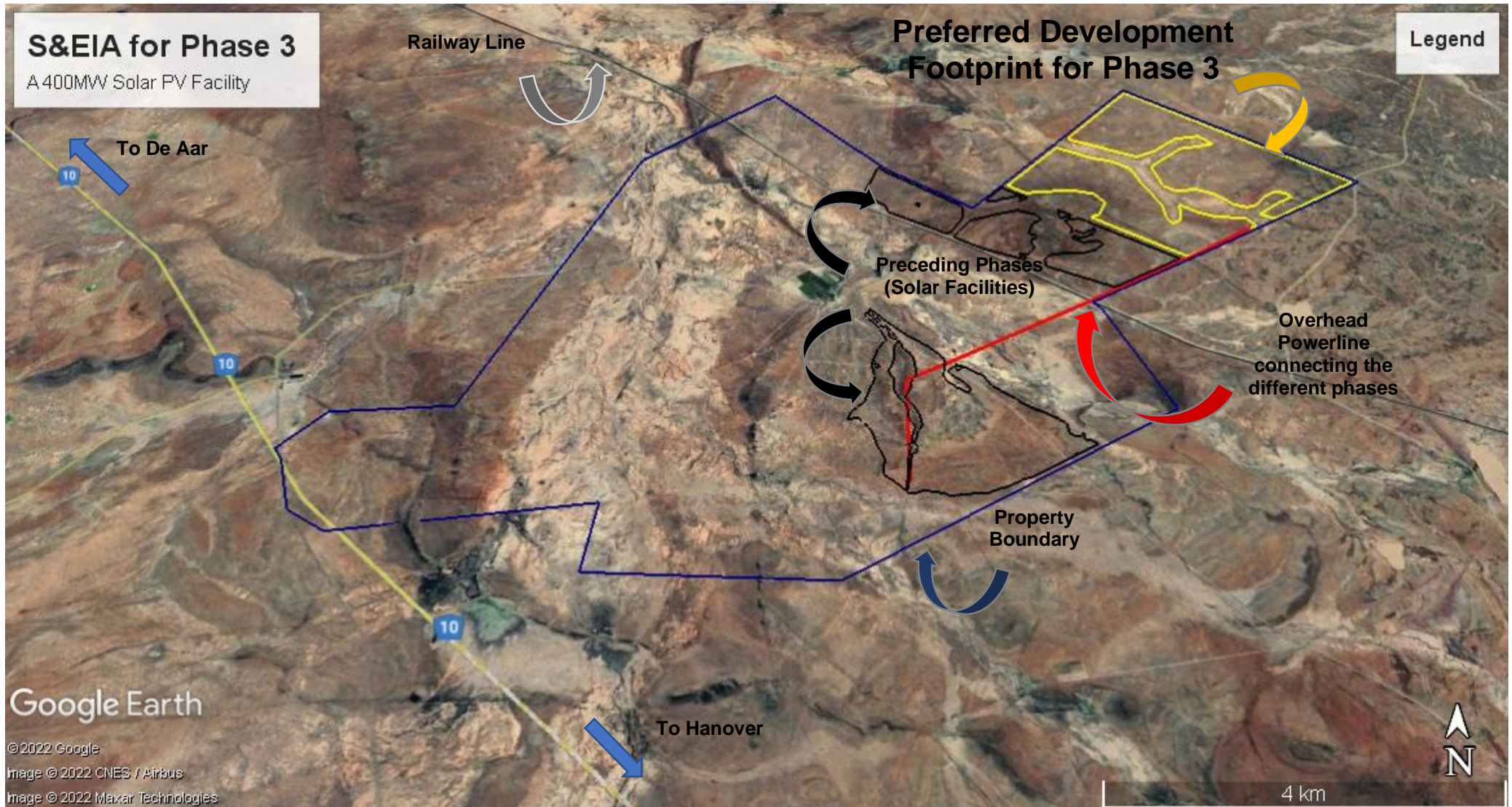
Who is going to do it? Soventix (Pty) Ltd will develop the Solar Facility.

Where will the solar facility be? The third solar facility will be developed on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C (see yellow section on map), between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

Why are you telling me? South Africa's laws about our environment (National Environmental Management Act, 1998) and water resources (National Water Act, 1998) say that a person must get permission from the government before they can build a big solar facility and powerlines on a farm, and especially if it is going to impact the surface water, groundwater and remove a lot of the plants (*Listed Activities 11, 19, 28 & 48 of Listing Notice 1, Listed Activities 2 & 15 of Listing Notice 2, & Listed Activities 14 & 18 of Listing Notice 3, as well as Section 21(a), (b), (c), (g) and (i) water uses*). Before Soventix can get permission from the government (Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform and the Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency), they must first make a study, called a Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment, to see if and how the facility will impact the land, river, animals, plants, and people in the surrounding area. **Part of the study is to tell the people in the surrounding area about the project so that you know about it and, if you believe it will affect you, then you can tell us what you think.**

What next? If you have any questions, want to tell us something, or if you want us to put your name on a list so that we can give you more information, then please send your name, cell phone number, email, and postal address to Ms Shannon Farnsworth. You can use one of the following ways: Cell: 072 654 8202, Fax: 086 697 9316, E-mail: shannon@ecoleges.co.za, Post: PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170. We will start sending out information more than 30 days from the date of this notice. If you are worried about the surface or groundwater, then you must tell us before 22nd April 2022.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Geskrewe kennisgewing:

Soventix (Edms) Bpk. wil 'n sonkrag-PV-fasiliteit bou

Wat gaan gebeur? Suid-Afrika kan nie genoeg elektrisiteit maak om sy mense en ekonomie te voorsien nie. Dit is hoekom ons "beurkrag" het. En die meeste (80%) van ons elektrisiteit word gemaak deur steenkool te verbrand, wat baie sleg is vir die omgewing en ons gesondheid. So, 'n maatskappy, genaamd Soventix, gaan drie sonkrag-PV-fasiliteite bou wat elektrisiteit maak deur die sonskyn te gebruik. Die derde fasiliteit sal baie sonpanele gebruik om die son se energie van 'n groot gebied (600 ha) op te vang en dit in elektrisiteit te verander.

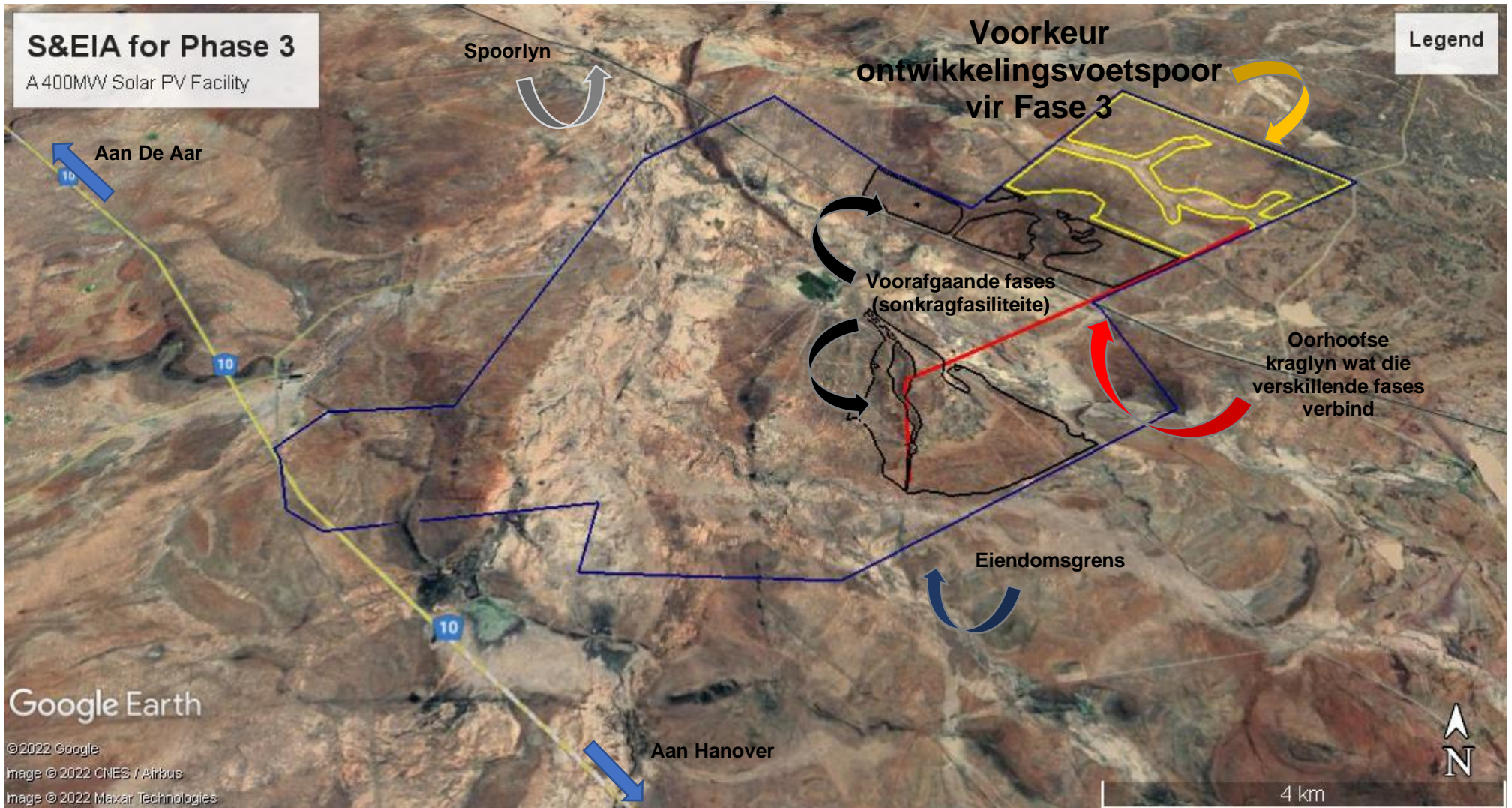
Wie gaan dit doen? Soventix (Edms) Bpk. sal die sonkragfasiliteit ontwikkel.

Waar sal die kruising wees? Die derde sonkragfasiliteit sal ontwikkel word op die Restant van Plaas Goede Hoop 26C en Gedeelte 3 van Plaas Goede Hoop 26C (sien geel gedeelte op kaart), tussen De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Plaaslike Munisipaliteit, Pixley Ka Seme Distriksmunisipaliteit, Noord-Kaap Provinsie, Suid-Afrika.

Hoekom vertel jy my? Suid-Afrika se wette oor ons omgewing (Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur, 1998) en waterbronne (Nasionale Waterwet, 1998) sê dat 'n persoon toestemming van die regering moet kry voordat hulle 'n groot sonkragfasiliteit en kraglyne op 'n plaas kan bou, en veral as dit die oppervlaktwater, grondwater gaan beïnvloed en baie van die plante gaan verwyder (Gelyste Aktiwiteite 11, 19, 28 & 48 van Lyskennisgewing 1, Gelyste Aktiwiteite 2 & 15 van Lyskennisgewing 2, & Gelyste Aktiwiteite 14 & 18 van Noteringskennisgewing 3, sowel as Artikel 21(a), (b), (c), (g) en (i) watergebruike). Voordat Soventix toestemming van die regering (Noord-Kaapse departement van landbou, omgewingsake, landelike ontwikkeling en grondhervorming en die Orange Proto-opvanggebiedbestuursagentskap) kan kry, moet hulle eers 'n studie, genaamd 'n Omvang- en omgewingsimpakstudie, maak om te sien of en hoe die fasiliteit die grond, rivier, diere, plante en mense in die omliggende area sal beïnvloed. **Deel van die studie is om die mense in die omgewing van die projek te vertel sodat jy daarvan weet en, as jy glo dit sal jou raak, dan kan jy vir ons sê wat jy dink.**

Wat gebeur volgende? As jy enige vrae het, iets vir ons wil vertel, of as jy wil hê ons moet jou naam op 'n lys plaas sodat ons vir jou meer inligting kan gee, stuur asseblief jou naam, selfoonnommer, e-pos, en posadres aan Me. Shannon Farnsworth. Jy kan een van die volgende maniere gebruik: Sel: 072 654 8202, Faks: 086 697 9316, E-pos: shannon@ecoleges.co.za, Pos: Posbus 516, Machadodorp, 1170. Ons sal begin om inligting uit te stuur meer as 30 dae vanaf die datum van hierdie kennisgewing. As jy bekommerd is oor die oppervlakt of grondwater, moet jy ons voor 22 April 2022 in kennis stel.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure D3: Proof of Notification via Email for Background Information Document (BID)

From: Hlengile [mailto:hlengile@ecoleges.co.za]
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 07:42
To:
Cc:
Subject: Written notification of application for an Environmental Authorisation & a Water Use Authorisation for the development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility south of De Aar
Importance: High

Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly find attached a written notice, that is the Background Information Document (BID) pertaining to an application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use Authorisation for:

“The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa”

Please can you be so kind as to distribute the attached notice(s) to other interested and affected parties falling under your jurisdiction, authority, control, or administration, such as other owners, persons in control or occupiers of common land. The third attachment entitled “Notice occupiers” has been abbreviated for the occupiers of land, including for example, the local labour or work force. Otherwise, you are welcome to provide their contact details to us, and we shall inform them directly.

Take the time to review the BID and register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) should you have an interest in or be affected by the proposed development.

- **We shall submit the draft report for comment more than 30 days from the date of this email, and**
- **Any written comments or objections relating to the application for a Water Use Authorisation to undertake the proposed water uses must be lodged before 22nd April 2022.**

We are in the process of identifying all potential interested and affected parties. One such method of achieving this is the ‘Network’ or ‘Chain Referral System’. Please can you be so kind as to provide us with the name and contact details of any relevant person(s) you believe we should engage on matters of this nature, including for example, any organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates.

POPIA Consent. Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community, (v) a municipality, (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, or (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority, then we were required to give you notice in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2),

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

and had to therefore derive your information, including name, contact details and address, from a public record. Alternatively, you may have been referred to us. If you are not an organ of state, did not submit written comments or attend meetings, did not request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, then we are not obligated in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to retain a record of your personal information in a register of interested and affected parties, and as such, must obtain proof of consent provided by yourself. To this effect, kindly complete and return the last two pages of the Background Information Document, called POPIA Consent Form, or alternatively, reply to this email and confirm your consent as described below. Failure to provide consent (or comments) may impact your eligibility as a registered I&AP and opportunity to comment on reports and plans. Alternatively, should you not wish to participate or provide comments, then you are welcome to request that we delete your information from our records (the register of I&APs). Thank you.

I, in my capacity as the data subject, give consent to ecoleges, in its capacity as the responsible party, to process my personal information for purposes of pursuing its legitimate interests or those of a third party to whom the information is supplied, but limited to (1) the submission of reports or plans for comment, (2) transferring the same information to a third party, including registered interested and affected parties, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation, (3) submitting a copy of an appeal against a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and/or (4) submission of environmental audit reports (containing recommendations for amending the EMP) for comment.

For more information on how we process your personal information, kindly refer to the attached BID (POPIA Consent Form). For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), including your Section 5 Rights as a data subject, it is available at the following link: www.popia.co.za

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Thu 2022/02/17 07:42
Hlengile <hlengile@ecoleges.co.za>
Written notification of application for an Environmental Authorisation & a Water Use Authorisation for the development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility south of De Aar

To: hlengile@ecoleges.co.za
Cc: 'Jean-Paul de Villiers - Soventix SA PTY Ltd.'; 'Shannon Farnsworth'; Shaun@ecoleges.co.za
This message was sent with High importance.

Message | BID De Aar Phase 3 - Afrikaans Version.pdf (464 KB) | BID De Aar Phase 3 - English Version.pdf (429 KB) | Notice occupiers_English&Afrikaans.pdf (646 KB)

Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly find attached a written notice, that is the Background Information Document (BID) pertaining to an application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use Authorisation for:

"The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa"

Please can you be so kind as to distribute the attached notice(s) to other interested and affected parties falling under your jurisdiction, authority, control, or administration, such as other owners, persons in control or occupiers of common land. The third attachment entitled "Notice occupiers" has been abbreviated for the occupiers of land, including for example, the local labour or work force. Otherwise, you are welcome to provide their contact details to us, and we shall inform them directly.

Take the time to review the BID and register as an interested and affected party (I&AP) should you have an interest in or be affected by the proposed development.

- **We shall submit the draft report for comment more than 30 days from the date of this email**, and
- **Any written comments or objections relating to the application for a Water Use Authorisation to undertake the proposed water uses must be lodged before 22nd April 2022.**

We are in the process of identifying all potential interested and affected parties. One such method of achieving this is the 'Network' or 'Chain Referral System'. Please can you be so kind as to provide us with the name and contact details of any relevant person(s) you believe we should engage on matters of this nature, including for example, any organ of state which has jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates.

POPIA Consent. Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure D3: Proof of Notification via Email for Draft Scoping Report (DSR)

From: Hlengile [mailto:hlengile@ecoleges.co.za]

Sent: Monday, 13 June 2022 10:00

To:

Cc:

Subject: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use License relating to:

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The Draft Scoping Report for the abovementioned project has been completed and is now available for review and comment from registered Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's). A digital copy of the report has been made available on the ecoleges website (www.ecoleges.co.za). Access the report by clicking on the "I&AP Area" icon (top right corner) and entering the following login details, to access a folder called "Phase 3 De Aar DSR – 13 June 2022":

Username: De Aar Soventix Solar PV Projects

Password: SpR!3wt3)lcTkVdy)ia@fmTz

Please submit comments, including any issues which you believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application as well any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in writing to Ms S. Farnsworth on or before **14th July 2022**.

Comments may be submitted via post, telephone, fax or e-mail to:

EAP: Shannon Farnsworth

Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Post: P.O. Box 516, Machadodorp 1170

Cell: 072 654 8202

Fax: 086 697 9316

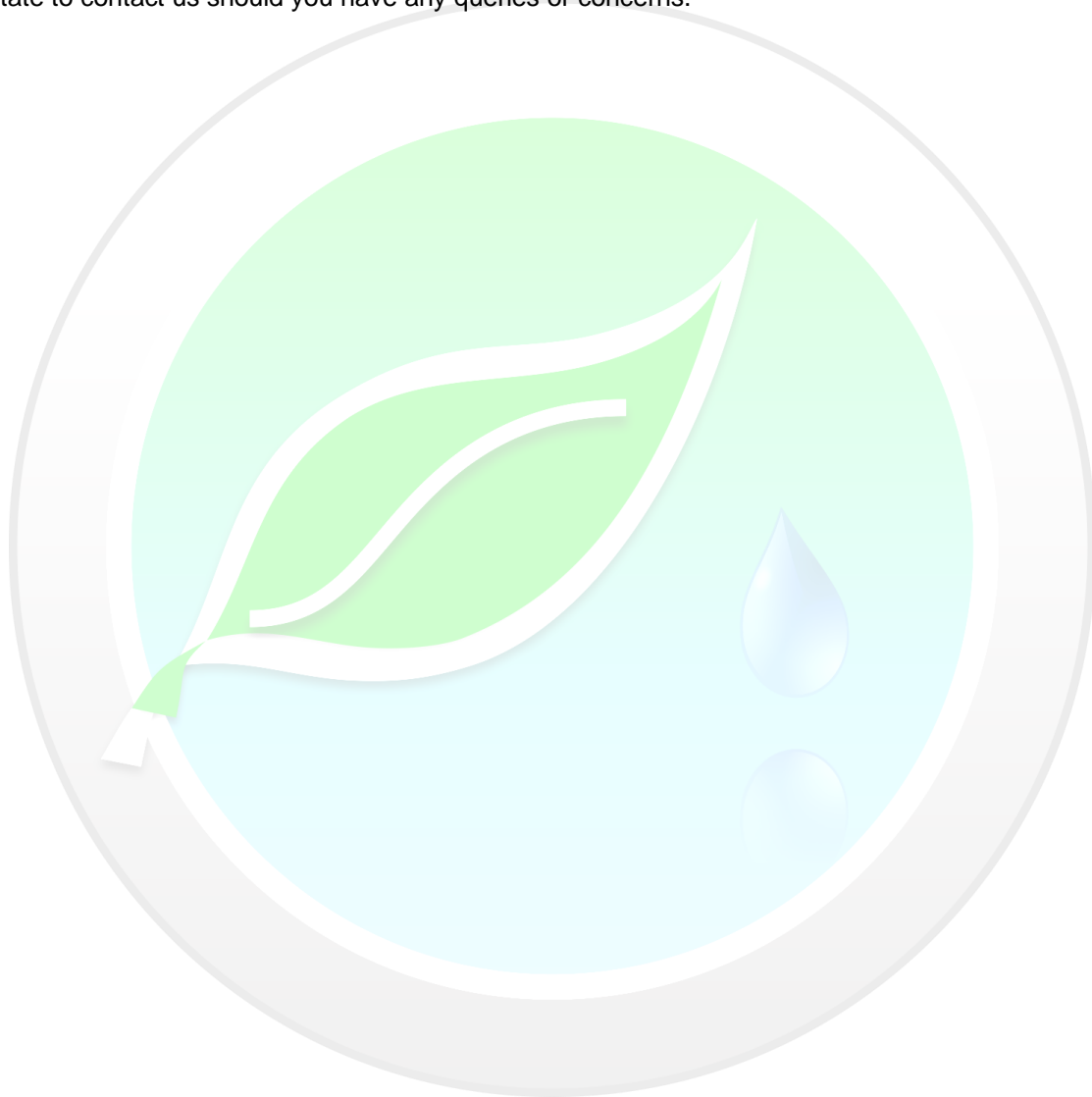
State Departments, which administer a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to this application, are reminded in terms of Regulation 43(2) of the EIA Regulations (2014), GNR 326, as amended, to comment within 30 days.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Should no comment be received within the 30-day commenting period ending **14th July 2022**, it will be assumed that the relevant I&AP or State Department has no comment to provide.

All comments received in response to the Draft Scoping Report will be incorporated into the Final Scoping Report, which will be submitted to the Competent Authority, being the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), for a decision on environmental authorisation. All registered I&APs will be notified of the Department's decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns.



Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3) - Message (HTML)

FILE MESSAGE

Ignore Delete Reply Reply All Forward More

PPP - shannon... To Manager Done Create New

Rules OneNote Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up Translate Find Related Select Zoom

Mon 2022/06/13 10:00
Hlengile <hlengile@ecoleges.co.za>
Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

To hlengile@ecoleges.co.za
Cc 'Shannon Farnsworth'; 'Shaun Macgregor'

Follow up. Start by Monday, 13 June 2022. Due by Monday, 13 June 2022.
This message was sent with High importance.

Message De Aar Phase 3 DSR_IAP Notification Letter.pdf (442 KB)

Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use License relating to:

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The Draft Scoping Report for the abovementioned project has been completed and is now available for review and comment from registered Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's). A digital copy of the report has been made available on the ecoleges website (www.ecoleges.co.za). Access the report by clicking on the "I&AP Area" icon (top right corner) and entering the following login details, to access a folder called "Phase 3 De Aar DSR – 13 June 2022":

Username: De Aar Soventix Solar PV Projects
Password: SpR!3wt3)lcTkVdy)ia@fmTz

Please submit comments, including any issues which you believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application as well any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in writing to Ms S. Farnsworth on or before **14th July 2022**.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M.Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure D3: Acknowledgment of DSR upload onto the DFFE Sfiler online system

From: Lydia Kutu [mailto:LKutu@dffe.gov.za]

Sent: Wednesday, 15 June 2022 09:30

To: Shannon Farnsworth <shannon@ecoleges.co.za>; 'Shaun' <shaun@ecoleges.co.za>

Cc: Constance Musemburi <CMusemburi@dffe.gov.za>; EIAAdmin <EIAAdmin@dffe.gov.za>; Salome Mambane <SMAMBANE@dffe.gov.za>; Masingita Maluleke <MPMaluleke@dffe.gov.za>

Subject: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE NEW APPLICATION FORM AND DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Department confirms having received the Application Form and Draft Scoping Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 10 June 2022. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 3 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

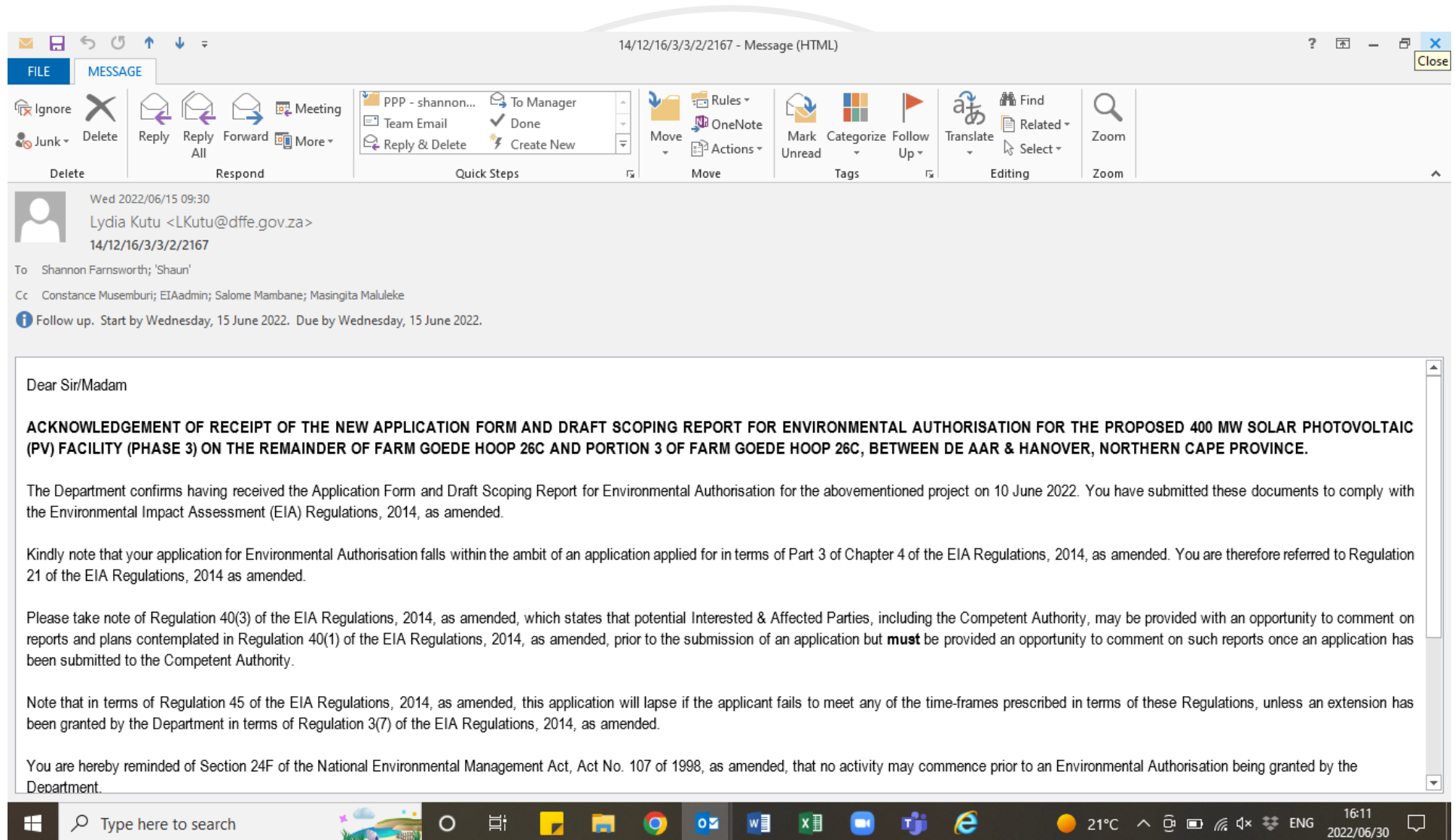
Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but **must** be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kind Regards,
Lydia Kutu

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure D3: Proof of Notification via Email for Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report

From: Hlengile <hlengile@ecoleges.co.za>

Sent: Thursday, 10 November 2022 09:24

To: hlengile@ecoleges.co.za

Cc: shaun@ecoleges.co.za; 'Shannon Farnsworth' <shannon@ecoleges.co.za>

Subject: Written notification of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good Morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use License relating to:

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and associated infrastructure (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the abovementioned project has been completed and is now available for review and comment from registered Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's). A digital copy of the report has been made available on the Ecoleges website (www.ecoleges.co.za), in a folder named "Phase 3 De Aar DEIAr – 10 November 2022". Access the report by clicking on the "I&AP Area" icon (top right corner) and entering the following login details:

Username: De Aar Soventix Solar PV Projects

Password: SpR!3wt3)lcTkVdy)ia@fmTz

Please submit comments, including any issues which you believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application as well any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in writing to Ms S. Farnsworth on or before **12th December 2022**.

Comments may be submitted via post, telephone, fax or e-mail to:

EAP: Shannon Farnsworth

Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Post: P.O. Box 516, Machadodorp 1170

Cell: 072 654 8202

Fax: 086 697 9316

State Departments, which administer a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to this application, are reminded in terms of Regulation 43(2) of the EIA Regulations (2014), GNR 326, as amended, to comment within 30 days.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Should no comment be received within the 30-day commenting period ending **12th December 2022**, it will be assumed that the relevant I&AP or State Department has no comment to provide.

All comments received in response to the Draft EIA Report will be incorporated into the Final EIA Report, which will be submitted to the Competent Authority, being the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), for a decision on environmental authorisation. All registered I&APs will be notified of the Department's decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns.



Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Written notification of availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photov...

Hlengile <hlengile@ecoleges.co.za>
To hlengile@ecoleges.co.za
Cc shaun@ecoleges.co.za; 'Shannon Farnsworth'

This message was sent with High importance.

Phase 3 DEIA_IAP cover letter.pdf
442 KB

Good Morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use License relating to:

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and associated infrastructure (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the abovementioned project has been completed and is now available for review and comment from registered Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's). A digital copy of the report has been made available on the Ecoleges website (www.ecoleges.co.za), in a folder named "Phase 3 De Aar DEIAr – 10 November 2022". Access the report by clicking on the "I&AP Area" icon (top right corner) and entering the following login details:

Username: De Aar Soventix Solar PV Projects
Password: SpR!3wt3)lcTkVdy)ia@fmTz

Please submit comments, including any issues which you believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application as well any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in writing to Ms S. Farnsworth on or before **12th December 2022**.

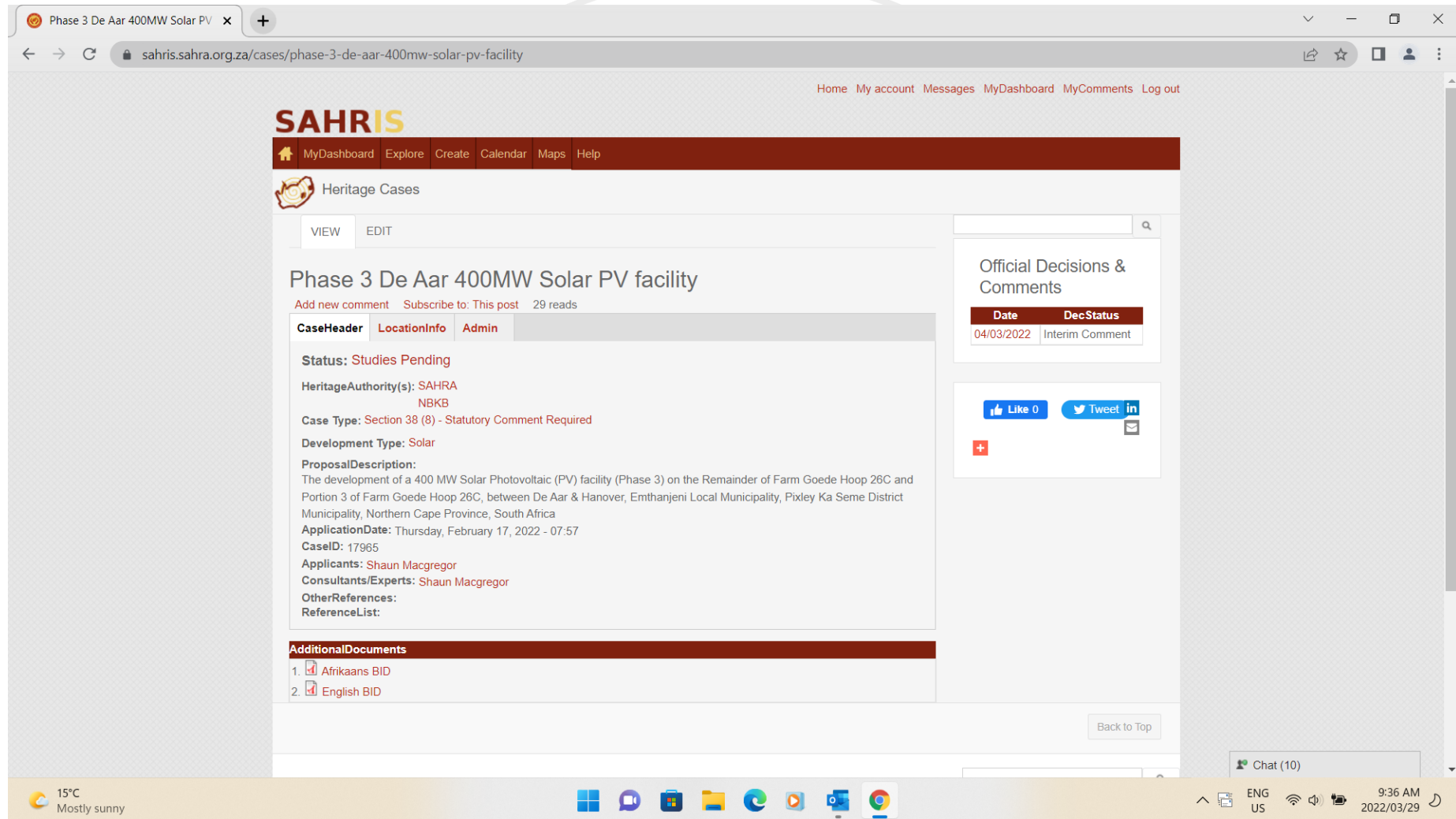
Comments may be submitted via post, telephone, fax or e-mail to:

EAP: Shannon Farnsworth
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za
Post: P.O. Box 516, Machadodorp 1170

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

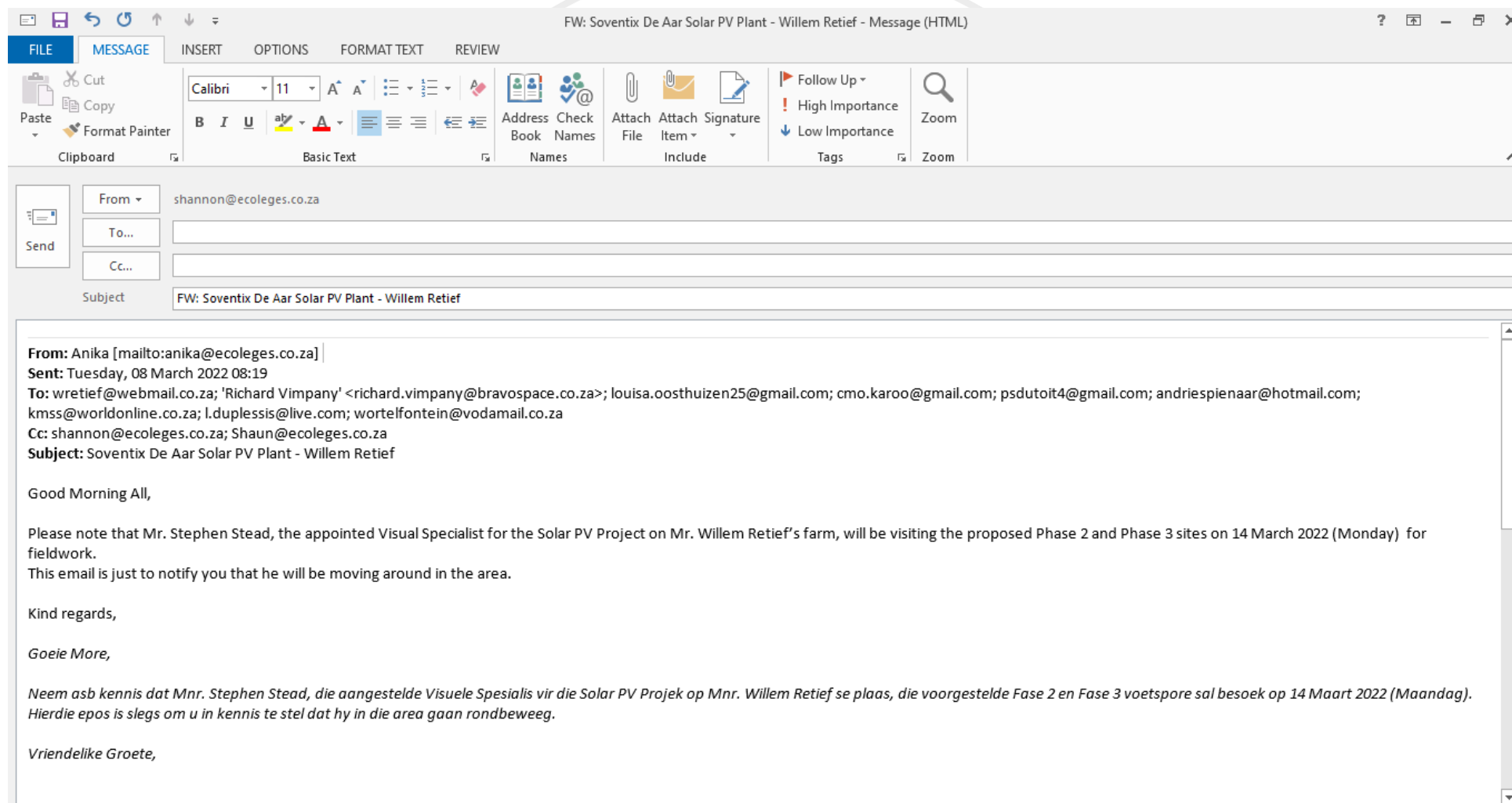
Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Annexure D4: Proof of Notification on SAHRIS



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure D5: Proof of Open Communication with Adjacent Landowners



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Annexure D6: Proof of follow ups with registered I&APs

Name	DSR on 13/06/2022
APPLICANT / CLIENT	
Jean-Paul de Villiers (Managing Director - Soventix SA)	No need to follow up, applicant.
Willem Retief (Land Owner)	No need to follow up, landowner.
EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY	
Municipal Manager	
Mr Isak Visser	RRR on 13/06/2022
Ms Marushel Meyers (PA)	RRR on 23/06/2022
Municipal Councillor of the Ward	
Lena Eliza Andrews (Ward 6)	Called on 27/06/2022: Currently on sick leave, not sure when she will go back to work, doesn't open emails.
Mr Patrick Mhlawuli (Ward 8)	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone off
S Makhandula (Ward 3)	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone doesn't go through.
Rate Payers Association	
Jaco Blom	Called on 27/06/2022: Received it.
Hentie vd Merwe	No contact number
PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY	
Municipal Manager	
Mr Rodney Pieterse	Called on 27/06/2022: Number not available at the moment.
Nomapaseka Present (PA)	Called on 27/06/2022: Number not available at the moment.
Environmental Director	

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Mr Sonwabile Nkondephe	RRR on 13/06/2022
GOVERNMENT	
Department of Environment Fisheries and Forestry	
Ms Olivia Letlalo	OOB on 20/06/2022
Mr Thando Boo	Mail undeliverable
Ms Millicent Solomons	OOB on 20/06/2022
Ms Makhosi Yeni	OOB on 20/06/2022
Constance Musemburi (Case Officer)	RRR on 22/06/2022
Lerato Mokoena	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
Department of Environment Fisheries and Forestry - Biodiversity	
Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni	RRR on 07/07/2022
Ms. Aulicia Maifo	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
Mr Derrick Makhubele	RRR on 22/06/2022
For the attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.	
Ms. Tsholofelo Sekonko	Sent DSR as per DFFE comments on 07/07/2022. RRR on 11/07/2022
Ms. Rabothata	Sent DSR as per DFFE comments on 07/07/2022. RRR on 11/07/2022
Department of Water & Sanitation	
Mr Shaun Cloete	RRR on 13/06/2022
Franks Lindiwe	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
Mr A. Abrahams	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
Ms Chantel Schwartz	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
Department of Environment & Nature Conservation	
Bryan Fisher	No need to follow up, handed project over to DFFE.
Thulani Mthombeni	Email not working.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

	Called on 27/06/2022: Received an email from me, not sure if its the one Im referring to. Re-sent email.
Isaac Gwija	Email not working.
	Called on 27/06/2022: Lady that answered the cellphone says she has taken over the phone and doesn't know Mr Gwija.Landline unanswered.
Doreen Werth	Email not working.
Department of Roads & Public Works	
Mr K Nogwili (HOD) & Ms N. Corns (Secretary)	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
Mr J Roelofse (Director)	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
Provincial Department of Transport, Safety & Liason	
Ms T. Modiakgotla (Private Secretary)	Called on 27/06/2022: Number incorrect.
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry– Northern Cape	
Samkelisiwe Lubanga	No need to follow up, colleague received it.
Jacoline Mans	OOR on 22/06/2022
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry– Northern Cape (National)	
Ms Mashudu Marubini (Delegate of the Minister)	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
Ms Thoko Buthelezi (AgriLAnd Liason office)	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
Ms Hettie Buys (Act 70/70 Registry)	No number
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development (Provincial)	
Mr Hannes Roux	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
Department of Rural Development & Land Reform	

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Department of Energy	
Ms Mangalane Du Toit(Chief Director: Land Restitution Support)	Called on 27/06/2022: Not in the office.
Mr Andrew Lawrence (Director - Land Claims)	Contact given by Mr Rabie (previous contact who asked to be removed from the mailing list).
Ms Darlit Esterhuizen	Contact given by Mr Rabie (previous contact who asked to be removed from the mailing list).
Department of Energy	
Johannes Mokobane	Email undeliverable. Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
Desiree Otto	No number
Department of Mineral Resources	
Ms Lungi Mondela (Secretary)	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
Mr Pieter Swart (Regional Manager)	RRR on 13/06/2022
Mr Vincent Muila (Env Officer)	RRR on 22/06/2022
ORGANISATIONS	
EWT	
Cobus Theron	Requested shapefiles on 23/06/2022
Bonnie Schumann	OOR on 22/06/2022
WESSA	
Sandy Crake	Called on 27/06/2022: Phone unanswered
SAHRA	

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)	
Natasha Higgitt (Heritage Officer, Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit)	RRR on 13/06/2022
SENTECH	
Themba Thabete	No need to follow up, procedure known.
Yanga Nofuma	AR on 20/06/2022
Square Kilometre Array (SKA)/South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	
Dr. Adrian Tiplady	No need to follow up, already provided no objection letter on 16/03/2022
Thato Nape	No need to follow up, already provided no objection letter on 16/03/2022
Bird Life SA	
Ernest Retief	No need to follow up, colleague AR.
Sam Ralston	AR on 21/06/2022
SALT (South African Large Telescope)	
Dr Ramotholo Sefako	No need to follow up. They are not affected in anyway. More than 500km radius.
Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Agency - Ngwao-Boswa Jwa Kapa Bokone	
Andrew ratha Timothy	Number does not exist.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Northern Cape Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
Sharon Steyn	RRR on 27/06/2022
South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA)	
Lineo Masopha	OOR on 22/06/2022
South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI)	
Funanani Netshitomboni	Number not available at the moment.
Independent Power Producer Office	
	Mail undeliverable
Centre for Environmental Rights	
Phumla Yeki	Received it, but wants to know why they are on the I&AP Register.
SERVITUDE HOLDERS	
<u>Transnet</u>	
Joey Bowers	RRR on 14/07/2022
	Numerous Emails and telephonic calls to Transnet – from 20 July 2022 to 12 October 2022 in attempts to obtain comments however no comments were provided (see email trail below).
<u>Eskom Distribution</u>	
Bossie Uys (Supervisor De Aar)	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
<u>Eskom Transmission</u>	

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Eskom Megawatt Park - Transmission	
Henk Wydeman (Hydra, Lines)	RRR on 13/06/2022
Daan Liebenberg (Hydra, Plant)	No need to follow up, colleagues received it.
Keketso Mbete (Env Person)	RRR on 13/06/2022
Craig Kivedo	RRR on 23/06/2022
<u>Eskom Megawatt Park - Transmission</u>	
Mr John Geeringh (D1Y38)	RRR on 13/06/2022
<u>SANRAL</u>	
Nicole Abrahams	Phone rings and then gets cut off.
<u>PUBLIC and/or NEIGHBOURING FARMS</u>	
<u>Owner of the land</u>	
Willem Retief	No need to follow up, landowner.
<u>Remainder of FARM No. 149 (Farm Goodhope)</u>	
Neville Vimpany	No need to follow up, received by Ricky.
Ricky Vimpany	RRR on 22/06/2022
<u>Remainder of LEUWE FOUNTAIN No. 27</u>	
<u>Leuwe Fountain Pty Ltd</u>	
Corneulis Oosthuizen	Received it, but didn't go through it.
	Received it, but didn't go through it.
<u>Portion 2 & 5 TAAIBOSCH FONTEIN No. 41 (Farm: Skilpadskuil)</u>	
Manual Orfao	RRR on 13/06/2022
<u>Requested to be registered</u>	

Malherbe Du Toit	OOB on 27/06/2022
David Nunez Blundell	Registered on 19 July 2022 (after DSR circulation)
juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd	
Karen Low	RRR on /06/2022

EMAIL TRAIL WITH TRANSNET TO OBTAIN COMMENTS

From: Shannon Farnsworth <shannon@ecoleges.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, 12 October 2022 12:35

To: 'Dylan.McLeod@transnet.net' <Dylan.McLeod@transnet.net>

Cc: 'Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net' <Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net>; 'joey.bowers@transnet.net' <joey.bowers@transnet.net>; 'Shaun' <shaun@ecoleges.co.za>

Subject: FW: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Dylan,

As per the email trail below, please may we receive some advice/comment from Transnet regarding the below and attached. We have been attempting to get Transnet's input since 27 July 2022.

The proposed development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and associated infrastructure (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province refers:

The original 132kv electrical distribution line has been extended to accommodate Eskom's requirements, the 132 kv distribution line potentially could cross Transnet's railway line, specifically Portion 2 of the Farm Kwanselaarshoek 40C (attached is the proposed distribution line kmz file and below table with the property details of the affected Transnet property).

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Parent Farm	Farm No.	Portion No.	SG Code	Landowner	Contact Person	Cell	Email
Kwanselaarshoek	40C	2	C03000000000004000002	Transnet	Joey Bowers	053 632 8303/8	joey.bowers@transnet.net

Please may I request information regarding the procedure and permissions that the applicant (Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd) must undertake or the relevant official/direct contact for the Wayleaves Division?

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Professional Environmental Assessment Practitioner



“Empowering South Africans to make environmentally responsible decisions”

Follow us on:



Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
Address: No. 3 Generaal Street, Machadodorp (eNtokozweni), 1170
Postal: PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170
PO Box 9005, Nelspruit, 1200

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202
Fax: 086 697 9316
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Website: www.ecoleges.co.za

Disclaimer: This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

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From: Shannon Farnsworth <shannon@ecoleges.co.za>

Sent: Monday, 05 September 2022 10:29

To: 'Dylan.McLeod@transnet.net' <Dylan.McLeod@transnet.net>

Subject: FW: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good Morning Dylan,

As per the email trail below, please may we receive some advice/comment from Transnet regarding the below and attached.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Professional Environmental Assessment Practitioner

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23



"Empowering South Africans to make environmentally responsible decisions"

Follow us on:



Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
Address: No. 3 Generaal Street, Machadodorp (eNtokozeni), 1170
Postal: PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170
PO Box 9005, Nelspruit, 1200
Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202
Fax: 086 697 9316
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Website: www.ecoleges.co.za

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Warning: Although Ecoleges Environmental Consultants has taken reasonable precautions to ensure no viruses are present in this email, Ecoleges Environmental Consultants cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

From: Obakeng Pilane Transnet Freight Rail PTA [<mailto:Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net>]

Sent: Thursday, 01 September 2022 10:23

To: Dylan McLeod Transnet Freight Rail BLM <Dylan.McLeod@transnet.net>

Cc: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Subject: FW: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Greetings Dylan

Kindly assist.

Regards

Obakeng

From: Shannon Farnsworth <shannon@ecoleges.co.za>

Sent: Wednesday, 31 August 2022 12:52

To: Obakeng Pilane Transnet Freight Rail PTA <Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net>

Subject: FW: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the TRANSNET organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Obakeng,

As discussed please can you resend the email that was sent to the Deport section regarding the below, I have not received any emails.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)

Professional Environmental Assessment Practitioner

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23



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Postal: PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170
PO Box 9005, Nelspruit, 1200
Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202
Fax: 086 697 9316
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Website: www.ecoleges.co.za

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

From: Shannon Farnsworth [<mailto:shannon@ecoleges.co.za>]

Sent: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 11:58

To: 'Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net' <Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net>; 'joey.bowers@transnet.net' <joey.bowers@transnet.net>

Cc: 'enquiries@transnet.net' <enquiries@transnet.net>

Subject: FW: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good Morning,

Please can Transnet provide comments on the request below urgently. The request was sent 27 July 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)

Professional Environmental Assessment Practitioner



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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Address: No. 3 Generaal Street, Machadodorp (eNtokozeni), 1170

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From: Shannon Farnsworth [<mailto:shannon@ecoleges.co.za>]

Sent: Wednesday, 10 August 2022 14:38

To: 'Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net' <Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net>

Cc: 'joey.bowers@transnet.net' <joey.bowers@transnet.net>

Subject: FW: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

The below email refers.

Please could Transnet provide clarity with regards to the request below.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

Professional Environmental Assessment Practitioner



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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

From: Shannon Farnsworth [<mailto:shannon@ecoleges.co.za>]

Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2022 09:05

To: 'Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net' <Obakeng.Pilane@transnet.net>

Cc: 'joey.bowers@transnet.net' <joey.bowers@transnet.net>

Subject: FW: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good morning Mr Pilane,

The below email regarding the Environmental Authorization process for the proposed development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and associated infrastructure (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province refers:

The original 132kv electrical distribution line has been extended to accommodate Eskom's requirements, the 132 kv distribution line potentially could cross Transnet's railway line, specifically Portion 2 of the Farm Kwanselaarshoek 40C (attached is the proposed distribution line kmz file and below table with the property details of the affected Transnet property).

Parent Farm	Farm No.	Portion No.	SG Code	Landowner	Contact Person	Cell	Email
Kwanselaarshoek	40C	2	C03000000000004000002	Transnet	Joey Bowers	053 632 8303/8	joey.bowers@transnet.net

Please may I request information regarding the procedure and permissions that the applicant (Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd) must undertake or the relevant official/direct contact for the Wayleaves Division?

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Professional Environmental Assessment Practitioner

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23



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From: Hlengile [<mailto:hlengile@ecoleges.co.za>]

Sent: Monday, 13 June 2022 10:00

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

To: hlengile@ecoleges.co.za

Cc: 'Shannon Farnsworth' <shannon@ecoleges.co.za>; 'Shaun Macgregor' <shaun@ecoleges.co.za>

Subject: Written notification of availability of Draft Scoping Report for comment regarding the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3)

Importance: High

Good morning, ladies, and gentlemen,

Kindly note that you have been registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) in the application for Environmental Authorisation and a Water Use License relating to:

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The Draft Scoping Report for the abovementioned project has been completed and is now available for review and comment from registered Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's). A digital copy of the report has been made available on the ecoleges website (www.ecoleges.co.za). Access the report by clicking on the "I&AP Area" icon (top right corner) and entering the following login details, to access a folder called "Phase 3 De Aar DSR – 13 June 2022":

Username: De Aar Soventix Solar PV Projects

Password: SpR!3wt3)lcTkVdy)ia@fmTz

Please submit comments, including any issues which you believe may be of significance to the consideration of the application as well any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application, in writing to Ms S. Farnsworth on or before 14th July 2022.

Comments may be submitted via post, telephone, fax or e-mail to:

EAP: Shannon Farnsworth

Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Post: P.O. Box 516, Machadodorp 1170

Cell: 072 654 8202

Fax: 086 697 9316

State Departments, which administer a law relating to a matter affecting the environment relevant to this application, are reminded in terms of Regulation 43(2) of the EIA Regulations (2014), GNR 326, as amended, to comment within 30 days.

Should no comment be received within the 30-day commenting period ending 14th July 2022, it will be assumed that the relevant I&AP or State Department has no comment to provide.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

All comments received in response to the Draft Scoping Report will be incorporated into the Final Scoping Report, which will be submitted to the Competent Authority, being the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), for a decision on environmental authorisation. All registered I&APs will be notified of the Department's decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Professional Environmental Assessment Practitioner



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Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

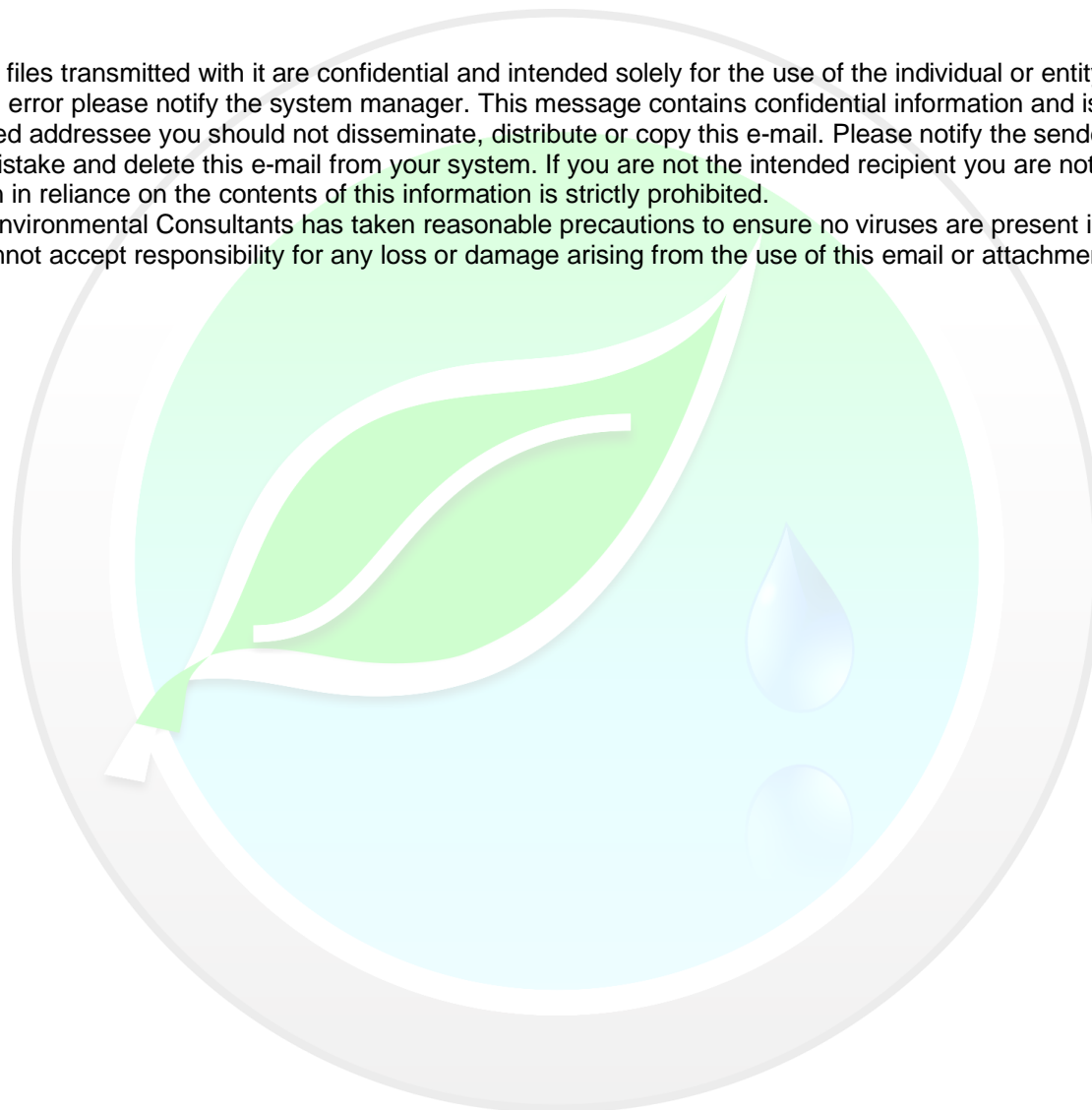
MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure E: Comments Received and Response (scanned copies)



Annexure E: Comments on Background Information Document

Comments on BID submitted by Neville R Vimpany on 03 March 2022

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Title: Mr Name: Neville R.
 Surname: Vimpany
 Company Name / Interest Group: N/A

 Postal or Residential Address: 3 Windrush Avenue
Linkside

 Town / City: Port Elizabeth
 Postal Code: 6001
 Tel: (_____) _____
 Cell: 082 775 6699
 Fax: (_____) _____
 E-mail address: richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za

A registered interested and affected party is entitled to object and comment, in writing, on all written submissions including draft reports made to the competent and/or responsible authority provided that - (c) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.

None.

Please indicate with an X whether you would like to be kept informed of the GA & BA process.

YES, I would like to be kept informed	X
NO, I am not interested	

13

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
 Reg: 2006/023163/23

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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Background Information Document 2022_De Aar Phase 3 Solar PV EIA February 22, 2022

If "YES", how would you like to be informed? (Please mark the appropriate block with an "X")

E-mail	X
Fax	

COMMENTS: (if you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

As the registered owner of the neighboring farm, being The Farm No. 149, I have the following concerns regarding the proposed Phase 3 of the Solar PV development, bordering along a 4 km long boundary fence line;

1.) The negative visual aspect and view of this development when viewed from my property adjacent. My farm has been owned by my family for three generations and the remoteness and unspoiled environment is a key factor of this legacy.

2.) Crime. This is a reality in SA today and although I don't live on my farm permanently, we have not experienced any criminal incidents in over 40 years. My fear is that industrial development adjacent to my farm will

Continued on APPENDIX A and APPENDIX B

14

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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ANNEXURE A

Comments and Objections continued...

significantly increase the threat of criminal activity, be it stock theft, game poaching, property theft, home invasion or worse.

- 3.) Game breeding and management. Two of my camps adjacent to the proposed Phase 3 development site contain wild game. The impact of this solar development upon this game is of concern, as is the risk of damage to the solar panels as a result of period hunting and game management. I cannot be held responsible for any property damages, should they occur as a result.
- 4.) Road damage. The district gravel roads are not maintained by the local municipality and the inevitable increased traffic is likely to result in significant degradation of this sensitive infrastructure.
- 5.) Property value. It is reasonable to anticipate that the proposed development will negatively impact the value of my primary asset, for many years to come. My view is that the appeal of this unspoiled stock farm will be diminished as a direct result of the proximity of this huge industrial development.
- 6.) Long-term impact. The long-term impact, environmental and otherwise, remains unknown and therefore poses significant risk to all that will be impacted.
- 7.) Why here? Although the investors' benefits are obvious, there are countless locations around South Africa that would be better suited to such an industrial development, so why use virgin ground and a 'Greenfield' site of great agricultural value where countless less onerous and less valuable sun-drenched alternatives exist?

Response to comments on the BID submitted by Neville Richard Vimpany on 07 March 2022



No. 3 Generaal Street, Machadodorp, 1170
PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170
Tel: 086 644 7179
Fax: 086 697 9316
info@ecoleges.co.za
www.ecoleges.co.za

3 Windrush Avenue
Linkside
Port Elizabeth
6001

March 07, 2022

Attention: Neville Richard Vimpany
Email: richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the above project as well as providing comments on the BID that was circulated via email on 17 February 2022.

The comments received on the BID via email on the 03rd March 2022 have reference:

Comment No. 1:

"The negative visual aspect and view of this development when viewed from my property adjacent. My farm has been owned by my family for three generations and the remoteness and unspoiled environment is a key factor of this legacy."

Response No. 1:

A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. The appointed specialist undertaking the Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa. The site assessment for the above specialist assessment is scheduled for 14 March 2022. Stephen will contact you beforehand for permission to access your farm so that he can investigate your concern. We will keep you updated on the findings and any proposed mitigation measures proposed by the appointed visual specialist during the EIA process.

Comment No. 2:

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

“Crime. This is a reality in SA today and although I don't live on my farm permanently, we have not experienced any criminal incidents in over 40 years. My fear is that industrial development adjacent to my farm will significantly increase the threat of criminal activity, be it stock theft, game poaching, property theft, home invasion or worse.”

Response No. 2:

The absence of crime over the past 40 years is most likely due to the remoteness of the area, and low population density. The solar PV facility will not alter the remoteness of the area considering that it will not improve accessibility or promote the establishment of townships. Nonetheless, we intend on securing the remoteness and safety of the area by proposing the following mitigations.

Security during construction

- (1) Security during construction will be mitigated by erecting the perimeter fence first to prevent any movement out of the development footprint.
- (2) No accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site.
- (3) Furthermore, the number of construction workers will be limited by building the facility in sequential phases of 100 MW blocks as opposed to trying to build the 400 MW facility in one go.
- (4) Security will be appointed throughout construction. All contractors and workers will need to wear photo identification cards and vehicles will need to display vehicle logos, making it easier for surrounding landowners (farmers) to identify strangers. Furthermore, it will be proposed that the applicant communicate with the landowners before the construction phase commences to formalise and familiarise the local farmers with the aforesaid security arrangements.
- (5) An induction programme that includes a Code of Conduct for all contractors and sub-contractors shall be developed.

Security during operation

- (1) Security will be appointed throughout operation to discourage criminal elements. The facility will also be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence with controlled access using a security gate. Furthermore, the perimeter fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ security cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.

Comment No.3:

“Game breeding and management. Two of my camps adjacent to the proposed Phase 3 development site contain wild game. The impact of this solar development upon this game is of concern, as is the risk of damage to the solar panels as a result of poaching and game management. I cannot be held responsible for any property damages, should they occur as a result.”

Response No. 3:

Kindly elaborate on how you believe the facility will impact on the breeding or management of wild game in the two adjacent camps. It is worth noting that a Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

With regards to poaching and damage to solar panels:

Section 120 of the Firearm Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) deals with offences. Section 120(3) refers:

“It is an offence to-

- (a) cause bodily injury to any person or cause damage to property of any person by negligently using a firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun;
- (b) discharge or otherwise handle a firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun in a manner likely to injure or endanger the safety or property of any person or with reckless disregard for the safety or property of any person; or
- (c) have control of a loaded firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun in circumstances where it creates a risk to the safety or property of any person and not to take reasonable precautions to avoid the danger.”

Furthermore, it is good practice to not shoot unless you know exactly where your bullet is going to strike. Prior to firing, the target should be identified, what is behind the target should be identified and where the bullet is likely to rest, taking into account ricochets etc.

Comment No. 4:

“Road damage. The district gravel roads are not maintained by the local municipality and the inevitable increased traffic is likely to result in significant degradation of this sensitive infrastructure.”

Response No. 4:

The applicant shall maintain any deterioration to the district gravel roads resulting from increased traffic during construction.

A Traffic Impact Assessment shall be undertaken. Specialist Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

Comment No. 5:

“Property value. It is reasonable to anticipate that the proposed development will negatively impact the value of my primary asset, for many years to come. My view is that the appeal of this unspoiled stock farm will be diminished as a direct result of the proximity of this huge industrial development.”

Response No. 5

A Socio-economic Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We have asked the specialist to as far as is possible research the validity of the said claim that solar PV facilities in rural areas reduce the property value of farms. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

Comment No. 6:

“Long-term impact. The long-term impact, environmental and otherwise, remains unknown and therefore poses significant risk to all that will be impacted.”

Response No. 6:

This comment is the reason for undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA process is to find that (reasonable and feasible) alternative that will ensure sustainable development. Multiple studies by registered professional natural scientists have been commissioned to identify and assess the impacts and risks on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects of the environment so that they can be appropriately mitigated for. These mitigations

are incorporated into an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that can be adapted (amended) according to the findings of ongoing monitoring during the life cycle of the activity.

Comment No. 7:

“Why here? Although the Investors’ benefits are obvious, there are countless locations around South Africa that would be better suited to such an industrial development, so why use virgin ground and a ‘Greenfield’ site of great agricultural value where countless less onerous and less valuable sun-drenched alternatives exist?”

Response No. 7:

The location factors are favourable for the development of a Solar PV facility including high and good quality solar irradiation (**Appendix A**), flat and gentle slopes and close proximity to existing Eskom infrastructure including powerlines to feed into the grid and the N10 for transport links.

The virgin land shall be used for both solar photovoltaic power generation and agriculture (Agrivoltaic). In other words, the current land use being sheep farming will continue within the solar PV facility to ensure minimal reduction (if any) on agricultural potential of the land as well as a management tool to control vegetation growth. An Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment has been commissioned to *inter alia* model and map the terrain units, soil patterns and land capability values, as well as perform Veld Condition Assessments (VCA) and Grazing Assessments (carrying capacity). The aim is to generate sound site-specific grazing management recommendations and ensure that farming within the facility remains sustainable.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Comments on the BID received from SAHRA dated 04 March 2022

Phase 3 De Aar 400MW Solar PV facility

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4627 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday March 04, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor
Ecolleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 9005
NELSPRUIT
1200

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the proposed development of a 400MW Solar Photovoltaic facility on the remainder of and portion 3 the Farm Goede Hoop 26C, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that an application specific Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)(b)(III) of NEMA. This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted as part of the EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

SAHRA requests that an assessment of the impacts to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA and section 24(4)(b)(III) of NEMA be conducted as part of the EA process.

The assessment must include an assessment of the impact to archaeological and palaeontological resources. The assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asspa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Phase 3 De Aar 400MW Solar PV facility

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquirer: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday March 04, 2022
Page No: 2

The proposed development is located within an area of moderate and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

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.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft Scoping and EIA documents inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager, Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Phase 3 De Aar 400MW Solar PV facility

Our Ref:



an agency of the
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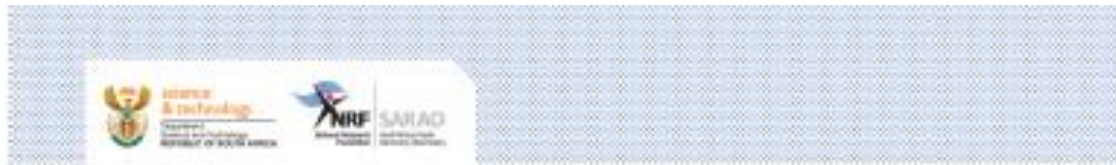
Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday March 04, 2022
Page No: 3

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahr/s.sahra.org.za/node/592717>

Comments on BID received from SARAO on 16 March 2022



Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
No. 3 Generaal Street
Machadodorp (eNtokozweni), 1170

Email: shaun@ecoleges.co.za
Date: 16 March 2022

Dear Shannon Farnsworth

RE: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR AND HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

This letter is in response to the proposed solar development and its possible impact on the Square Kilometre Array radio telescopes.

SARAO has undertaken a high-level impact assessment and based on the information provided it was determined that the project represents a low risk of interference to the SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 57.02 dBm/Hz. As such, we do not have any objection to the proposed development.

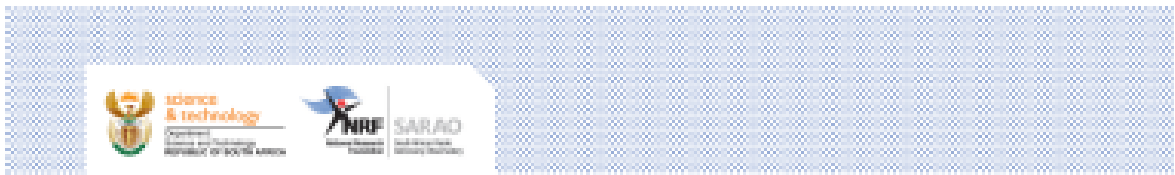
Thank you for your correspondence, our office remains open to discuss any matter relating to the above.

CAPE TOWN tel +27 (0)21 506 3000 | 2 De Groot, Block River Park | Observatory, Cape Town | South Africa 7825
JOHANNESBURG tel +27 (0)11 447 2004 | 17 Baker St, Rosebank | Johannesburg | South Africa 2196
HARARE BEESTHOUK tel +27 (0)21 506 3000 | Farm 5673, Beesthouk, Woodmanskop Road | Inyanga District, Bulawayo | South Africa 2012

www.ska.ac.za

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation and is responsible for national radio astronomy activities and programmes. SARAO is responsible for implementing the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23



Regards,

Mr Selaelo Matlhane

Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Tel: 011 442 2434

Email: smatlhane@ska.ac.za

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Comments on the BID submitted by Manuel Orfao on 22 March 2022

Kennisgewing & Agtergrond Inligting Dokument: Solar PV (Phase 3) EIA February 17, 2022

REGISTRASIE- EN KOMMENTAARBLAD

400 MW SONFOTOVOLTAISE (FV) FASILITEIT (FASE 3) OP DIE RES VAN DIE PLAAS GOEIE HOOP 26C EN GEDEELTE 3 VAN DIE PLAAS GOEIE HOOP 26C, TUSSEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Titel: Mnr. Naam: Manuel

Van: Orfao

Maatskappynam / Belangegroep: M.C. Orfao
Skilpadskuil

Pos- of Woonadres: 99 Visser Street
De Aar, 7000

Dorp / Stad: De Aar

Pos Kode: 7000

Tel: (053) 6310926

Sel: 0827841972

Faks: (053) 6310926

E-posl adres: mcorfao@worldonline.co.za

'n Geregistreeerde belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party is geregtig om beswaar te maak en skriftelik kommentaar te lewer op alle skriftelike voorleggings, insluitend konsepverslae wat aan die bevoegde en/of verantwoordelike owerheid gemaak is, mits - (c) die belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party enige direkte besigheid, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang wat daardie party mag hê by die goedkeuring of weiering van die aansoek. Verskaf asseblief sulke inligting in die spasie hieronder verskaf.

Dui asseblief met 'n X aan of u op hoogte gehou wil word van die GA & BA-proses.

JA, ek wil graag op hoogte gehou word	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NEE, ek stel nie belang nie	<input type="checkbox"/>

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Kennisgewing & Agtergrond Inligting Dokument: Solar PV (Phase 3) EIA February 17, 2022

As "JA", dui asb aan met 'n X hoe u op hoogte gehou wil word.

E-pos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Faks	<input type="checkbox"/>

KOMMENTAAR: (Indien u meer spasie benodig as wat voorsien word, heg asseblief addisionele bladsye aan)

1. Veiligheid van woners, besoekers
2. Diefstal en inbrake agv ontwikkeling
3. Uitsig: sonpanele in sig vanaf skilpadskuil, nie meer natuur uitsig.
4. Grondwaarde: grond gaan heel moontlik minder waarde he agv. ontwikkeling vir toekomstige kopers
5. Toestand van paaie: die paaie gaan heel moontlik verswak agv. swaar voertuie
6. Gevaar van brande agv werkers
7. Gevaar dat sonpanele beskadig kan word gedurende jagte.
(in derde van skilpadskuil grens teen fase 2/3)

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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Response to comments on the BID submitted by Manuel Orfao in both English and Afrikaans on 26 March 2022



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info@ecoleges.co.za
www.ecoleges.co.za

99 Visser Street
De Aar
7000

March 26, 2022

Attention: Manuel Orfao
Email: mcorfao@worldonline.co.za

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the above project as well as providing comments on the BID that was circulated via email on 17 February 2022.

The comments received on the BID via email on the 22nd March 2022 have reference:

Comment No. 1 and No. 2:

1. "Safety of the residents and visitors."
2. "Theft and burglary due to the development."

Response No. 1 and No. 2:

The solar PV facility will not alter the remoteness of the area considering that it will not improve accessibility or promote the establishment of townships. Nonetheless, we intend on securing the remoteness and safety of the area by proposing the following mitigations.

Security during construction

- (6) Security during construction will be mitigated by erecting the perimeter fence first to prevent any movement out of the development footprint.
- (7) No accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site.

- (8) Furthermore, the number of construction workers will be limited by building the facility in sequential phases of 100 MW blocks as opposed to trying to build the 400 MW facility in one go.
- (9) Security will be appointed throughout construction. All contractors and workers will need to wear photo identification cards and vehicles will need to display vehicle logos, making it easier for surrounding landowners (farmers) to identify strangers. Furthermore, it will be proposed that the applicant communicates with the landowners before the construction phase commences to formalise and familiarise the local farmers with the aforesaid security arrangements.
- (10) An induction programme that includes a Code of Conduct for all contractors and sub-contractors shall be developed.

Security during operation

- (2) Security will be appointed throughout operation to discourage criminal elements. The facility will also be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence with controlled access using a security gate. Furthermore, the perimeter fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ security cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.

Comment No.3:

“View impairment – The area designated for the solar panels are visible from Skilpadskuil, which means that the view will no longer be a nature scenery.”

Response No. 3:

A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is being undertaken during the EIA process. The appointed specialist undertaking the Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa. We will keep you updated on the findings and any proposed mitigation measures recommended by the appointed visual impact specialist.

Comment No. 4:

“Land/Farm Value – The value of the land/farm will most likely decrease due to the development, which may have an effect on future buyers (including farmers – looking to buy the land).”

Response No. 4:

A Socio-economic Impact Assessment is being undertaken during the EIA process. We have asked the specialist to as far as is possible research the validity of the said claim that solar PV facilities in rural areas reduce the property value of farms. We will keep you updated accordingly.

Comment No. 5:

“Road conditions – The condition of the roads will most likely deteriorate as a result of the heavy vehicles using the roads.”

Response No. 5

The applicant shall maintain any deterioration to the district gravel roads resulting from increased traffic during construction.

Furthermore, a Traffic Impact Assessment is also being undertaken.

Comment No. 6:

“Risk of veld fires caused by workers during the construction of the plant.”

Response No. 6:

Risk of veld fires both during the construction and operational phases has been identified as a potential impact. It should be noted that no accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site. Nonetheless, we intend on addressing this concern by proposing the following mitigations.

- 1) Open fires are prohibited;
- 2) Burning of waste is prohibited; and
- 3) Maintenance of firebreaks around the perimeter of the proposed development.

Comment No. 7:

“Risk of solar panels being damaged during the hunting season (1/3 of Skilpadskuil borders the Phase 2 & Phase 3 development).”

Response No. 7:

Your concern is a real risk and very much appreciated. We welcome any suggestions that will improve the safety of neighbouring landowners and their property during the hunting season, such as identifying no shooting zones, notifying neighbouring properties of imminent hunts, hunters taking out the appropriate insurances, etc.

Applicable specialists were requested to include some of your concerns in their scope and offer solutions by way of mitigations. These studies will hopefully provide us with answers to make informed decisions going forward. Your concerns are now a part of our EIA process. Please take the time to review our draft reports when we distribute them for comment to ensure that we have adequately addressed your concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Response: BID comments_Manuel Orfao 24/03/2022



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Fax: 085 697 9316
info@ecoleges.co.za
www.ecoleges.co.za

Visser Straat 99
De Aar
7000

25 Maart, 2022

Aandag: Manuel Orfao
Epos: mcorfao@worldonline.co.za

RE: REAKSIE OP KOMMENTAAR ONTVANG OP DIE AGTERGRONDINLICHTINGS-DOKUMENT (BID) VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN 'N 400 MW SONFOTOVOLTAÏSE FASILITEIT (FASE 3) OP DIE OORBLYWENDE DEEL VAN PLAAS GOEDE HOOP 26C HOOP EN GEDEELTE 3 EN VAN PLAAS GOEDE HOOP 26C, TUSSEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Eerstens wil ons u erken en bedank dat u as 'n Belangstellige en Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) vir die bogenoemde projek geregistreer het, asook dat u kommentaar gelewer het op die BID wat op 17 Februarie 2022 per e-pos gestrukuleer is.

Die kommentaar wat op die BID per epos op 22 Maart 2022 ontvang is, het verwysing:

Kommentaar No. 1 en No. 2:

1. "Veiligheid van die Inwoners en besoekers."
2. "Diefstal en Inbrake as gevolg van die ontwikkeling."

Reaksie No. 1 en No. 2:

Die sonkragfasiliteit sal nie die afgeleë ligging van die gebied verander nie, aangesien dit nie toeganklikheid sal verbeter of die stigting van townships sal bevorder nie. Nietemin beoog ons om die afgeleë ligging en veiligheid van die gebied te verseker deur die volgende versagtings voor te stel.

Sekuriteit gedurende konstruksie

- (1) Sekuriteit tydens konstruksie sal versag word deur eers die omtrekheining op te rig om enige beweging uit die ontwikkelingsvoetspoor te voorkom.
- (2) Geen akkommodasie sal vir kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs op die konstruksierein voorsien word nie.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Response: BID comments_Manuel Ortao 24/03/2022

- (3) Verder sal die aantal konstruksiewerkers beperk word deur die fasiliteit in opeenvolgende fases van 100 MW-blokke te bou in plaas daarvan om die 400 MW-fasiliteit op een slag te probeer bou.
- (4) Sekuriteit sal regdeur konstruksie aangestel word. Alle kontrakteurs en werkers sal foto-identifikasiekaarte moet dra en voertuie sal voertuiglogo's moet vertoon, wat dit makliker maak vir omliggende grondelenaars (boere) om vreemdeinge te identifiseer. Verder sal daar voorgestel word dat die applikant met die grondelenaars kommunikeer voordat die konstruksiefase 'n aanvang neem om die plaaslike boere te formaliseer en vertrouwd te maak met die voormelde sekuriteitsreëlings.
- (5) 'n Induksieprogram wat 'n Gedragskode vir alle kontrakteurs en subkontraakteurs insluit, sal ontwikkel word.

Sekuriteit tydens operasie

- (1) Sekuriteit sal regdeur die operasie aangestel word om kriminele elemente te ontmoedig. Die fasiliteit sal ook omhein word met 'n 2,5 m hoë draadgaasveiligheidsheining met beheerde toegang deur 'n veiligheidshek. Verder sal die omtrek heining beveilig word met behulp van veelvuldige FLIR PTZ sekuriteitskameras wat 'n 2 km reikafstand in absolute duisternis het.

Kommentaar No. 3:

"Uitsig – Sonpanele sigbaar vanaf Skilpadskuil, nie meer natuuruitsig nie"

Reaksie No. 3:

'n Landskap/Visuele Impakstudie word tydens die Omgewingsimpakstudie proses ondemeem. Die aangestelde spesialis wat die landskap-Visuele Impakbepaling ondemeem is Stephen Stead van Visual Resource Management Africa. Ons sal jou op hoogte hou van die bevindings en enige voorgestelde versagtingsmaatreëls wat deur die aangestelde visuele Impakspesialis aanbeveel word.

Kommentaar No. 4:

"Grondwaarde – Grond gaan heel moontlik minder waarde hê as gevolg van ontwikkeling vir toekomstige kopers."

Reaksie No. 4:

'n Sosio-ekonomiese Impakstudie word tydens die Omgewingsimpakstudie proses ondemeem. Ons het die spesialis gevra om sover moontlik na te vors oor die geldigheid van die genoemde bewering dat sonkrag fasiliteite in landelike gebiede die eiendoms waarde van plase verminder. Ons sal jou dienoreenkomstig op hoogte hou.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

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Response: BID comments_Manuel Ortao 24/03/2022

Kommentaar No. 6:

"Toestand van paale – Paale gaan heel moontlik verswak as gevolg van swaar voertuie."

Reaksie No. 6:

Die aansoeker sal onderhoud doen op enige agteruitgang van die distriksgrondpaale as gevolg van verhoogde verkeer tydens konstruksie.

Verder word 'n Verkeersimpakstudie ook onderneem.

Kommentaar No. 8:

"Gevaar van brande as gevolg van werkers"

Reaksie No. 8:

Die risiko van veldbrande beide tydens die konstruksie- en bedryfsfase is geïdentifiseer as 'n potensieël impak. Daar moet kennis geneem word dat geen akkommodasie vir kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs op die konstruksie terrein voorsien sal word nie. Nietemin beoog ons om hierdie bekommernis aan te spreek deur die volgende versagtings voor te stel:

- (1) Oop vuur is verbode;
- (2) Verbranding van afval is verbode; en
- (3) Instandhouding van brandbane rondom die omtrek van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling moet gedoen word.

Kommentaar No. 7:

"Gevaar dat sonpanele beskadig kan word gedurende jagte. (In derde van Skilpadskul grens aan Fase 2 en Fase 3)."

Reaksie No. 7:

Jou kommer is 'n werklike risiko en word baie waardeer. Ons verwelkom enige voorstelle wat die veiligheid van naburige grondelenaars en hul eiendom gedurende die jagseisoen sal verbeter, soos om "geen skietsones" te identifiseer, naburige eiendomme van naderende jagtogte in kennis te stel, jagters wat die toepaslike versekering uitneem, ens.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Response: BID comments_Manuel Ortao 24/03/2022

Toepaslike spesialiste is versoek om sommige van u bekommernisse in hul omvang in te sluit en oplossings by wyse van versagting te bied. Hierdie studies sal hopelik vir ons antwoorde gee om ingeligte besluite vorentoe te neem. Jou bekommernisse is nou deel van ons Omgewingsimpakstudie proses. Neem asseblief die tyd om ons konsepverslae te hersien wanneer ons dit vir kommentaar versprei om te verseker dat ons u bekommernisse voldoende aangespreek het.

Moet asseblief nie hulwer om ons te kontak indien u enige verdere navrae of bekommernisse het nie.

Die uwe,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

Selfoon: +27 (0)72 654 8202

Epos: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23


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Annexure E: Comments on Draft Scoping Report



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Comments on the DSR submitted by National Department Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) on 06 July 2022



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447, PRETORIA 0001, Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, - PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167
Enquiries: Ms Corstance Muzembu
Telephone: (012) 399 9416 E-mail: CMuzembu@dfpe.gov.za

Ms Shannon Farnsworth
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 516
MACHADODORP
1170

Telephone Number: ((082) 451 5608
Cell: (072) 654 8202
Email Address: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Farnsworth

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (DSR) dated 03 June 2022, received by the Department on 10 June 2022 and acknowledged on 15 June 2022, refers.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report (FSR):

(a) Application form

- i. The reason for this Department being the competent authority in terms of S24C of NEMA (Refer to Section 1 of the application form), must be expanded to include the agreement dated 09 May 2022.
- ii. Please ensure that the relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The applicant/EAP must certain which activities are triggered and avoid the use of words such as "may". You are required to provide thresholds for each activity included.
- iii. Please consider the applicability of phased listed activities since this is a phased development.
- iv. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the FSR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- v. Please include a column on the table in Appendix 3: List of Landowners, which references the included landowner consent letters. The list of landowners should be specific to the non-linear grid infrastructure. The column should include:

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Parent Farm	Farm No	Portion No	SG Code	Landowner	Contact Person	Cell	E-Mail	Landowner consent included
Broodspannersplaats	2515	7	T015 0000 0000 0025 0000 7	Willem Andries De Klerk	Anton Pelsler	082 804 1796	astro2@imgaweb.co.za	Page X

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- i. Please provide a separate appendix which includes all the maps contained in the scoping report.
- ii. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development;
 - The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All 'no-go' areas.
- iii. The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- iv. Google maps will not be accepted.

(c) Assessment of Alternatives:

- i. Please ensure that the final Scoping Report adequately assess, evaluate and address alternatives. Please note, through the description and assessment of alternatives in the scoping report, the decision maker must be in a position to follow the argument as to which alternatives will be further evaluated in the EIA phase and which alternatives will be scoped out of the process. Please be specific and straight to the point when presenting information. Please ensure that a description of each of the preferred alternative type and a detailed motivation on why it is preferred is provided. This information should also form part of the Plan of Study for EIA.
- ii. Please ensure that the identified alternatives for the proposed activity are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 (1) (c) (d) and 2 (h) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 (2)(x)(xi).
- iii. Further note that the final Scoping Report must comply with Appendix 2, Regulation 2 (1) which states that "A scoping report must contain the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the process, informing all preferred alternatives". The Regulations specifically requires that a preferred alternative be identified during the final Scoping Report.

DFPE Reference: 14/12/16/3/322167

2

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

(d) Public Participation Process

- i. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the FSR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the FSR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- ii. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format, which includes the date when the comments were received. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- iii. The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities.

(e) Specialist Assessments

- i. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of the proposed grid and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- ii. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- iii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- iv. It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Chief Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

General

When providing coordinates as part of the information submitted regarding the location of an activity as part of an application for environmental authorisation, such coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system as per regulation 5(6) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that

"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

You are further reminded that the FSR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Ms Millicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Letter signed by: Mr Lerato Mokoena
Designation: Assistant Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 06 July 2022

cc:	Jean Paul de Villiers	Sowentz SA (Pty) Ltd.	Email: j.p.devilliers@sowentz.com
	Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	Email: BFisher@nccpp.gov.za
	Isak Visser	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Email: visser@emthanjeni.co.za

DFFE Reference: 14/12/18/3/3/20187

4

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Response to comments on the DSR submitted by National Department Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) on 06 July 2022



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**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

For Attention:

Constance Musemburi

Directorate: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Tel: +27 (0)12 399 9416

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Email: cmusemburi@environment.gov.za

July 15, 2022

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, AND OTHER PROPERTIES BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.”

(DFFE REFERENCE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167)

98

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank the Department for providing comments on the Draft Scoping Report, and especially well within the 30-day comment period.

The comments dated 06 dated 06 July 2022 and received via email on 06 July 2022 have reference

(a) Application form

i. The reason for this Department being the competent authority in terms of S24C of NEMA (Refer to Section 1 of the application form), must be expanded to include the agreement dated 09 May 2022.

Section 1 of the Application form does include the following reference to the Agreement, "Refer to Section 24C (3) Agreement from the Minister to DENC in the Northern Cape dated 05th May 2022 (**APPENDIX 14**)". The date has been corrected to reflect "09th May".

A summary of the Agreement will be included in Section 1.

ii. Please ensure that the relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The applicant/EAP must certain which activities are triggered and avoid the use of words such as "may". You are required to provide thresholds for each activity included.

The Application Form has been revised as follows and will be resubmitted.

1. Changed the project title to include reference to the on-site substation and distribution line by adding the words "and associated infrastructure" as well the additional properties affected by the linear infrastructure by adding the words "and other properties".
- "The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated infrastructure (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, and other properties between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa." on page 1.
2. Corrected the date from the "05th" to the "09th" in Section 1 to "Refer to Section 24C (3) Agreement from the Minister to DENC in the Northern Cape dated 09th May 2022 (**APPENDIX 14**)" on page 3.
3. Updated the PROJECT DESCRIPTION from page 7 to make it more accurate.
4. Updated the descriptions for the listed activities in Section 7. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR, by replacing the word "may" with "will" and including thresholds for each activity.
5. Updated Appendix 3 relating to land ownership.
Updated 6. SITE DESCRIPTION and Appendix 6 relating to the properties affected by the linear infrastructure.

Please consider the applicability of phased listed activities since this is a phased development.

Kindly be advised that while this development has been referred to as Phase 3, there will be activities that are not phased, particularly, for example, if they have been authorised in the previous two phases.

Nonetheless, a review of the phased listed activities revealed that none are applicable to this project as applicable listed activities are either included in this application or the thresholds prescribed in other potential listed activities read with the phased activities, are not exceeded when

all three developments are combined (**Appendix A**).

If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the FSR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

The activities applied for in the application do not differ from those mentioned in the FSR. However, the Application Form has been amended (see above) and will be resubmitted.

Please include a column on the table in Appendix 3: List of Landowners, which references the included landowner consent letters. The list of landowners should be specific to the non-linear grid infrastructure. The column should include:

The official Application Form reads, "*In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of those landowners with their contact details as Error! Reference source not found.*" There is only one landowner for the non-linear grid infrastructure, and his contact details are on page 5 of the Application Form. Appendix 3 contains his Letter of Consent – there is no point in creating a table with a column entitled "landowner consent included" when Appendix 3 already contains the Letter of Consent.

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

i. Please provide a separate appendix which includes all the maps contained in the scoping report.

An Appendix containing the Locality Map (**Appendix A Site Plan**) already exists. Any other Maps will be added to the same Appendix.

ii. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: • The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development; • The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map; • All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); • The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; • Buffer areas; and • All "no-go" areas.

• The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development; • The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map; - **We shall produce a second locality map that includes the footprints for phases 1 and 2 as well their respective substations and transmission lines, the eskom grid infrastructure and a sensitivity layer.**

• All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); **The first locality map will be revised to include existing boreholes and roads.**

• The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; - **The locality map (Appendix A) is already overlain with a sensitivity map that includes the location of sensitive environmental features.**

• Buffer areas; and • All "no-go" areas – **A pre-liminary no-go area, specifically a watercourse that bisects the study area, was identified using the results of the specialist assessments**

from Phase 1 and included in the locality Map (Appendix A). Additional buffer and no-go areas cannot be realistically depicted at this stage of the application and until the specialists have submitted their findings.

iii. The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

The locality map (**Appendix A**) is already overlain with a sensitivity map.

A third map will be produced that overlays a sensitivity layer, other solar developments within a 30 km radius and existing grid infrastructure.

iv. Google maps will not be accepted.

Locality and sensitivity maps are produced by a GIS specialist using a programme or software that is more advanced than Google maps. However, we shall continue to use Google earth images to visually illustrate any written concepts explained in our reports.

(c) Assessment of Alternatives:

i. Please ensure that the final Scoping Report adequately assess, evaluate and address alternatives. Please note, through the description and assessment of alternatives in the scoping report, the decision maker must be in a position to follow the argument as to which alternatives will be further evaluated in the EIA phase and which alternatives will be scoped out of the process. Please be specific and straight to the point when presenting information. Please ensure that a description of each of the preferred alternative type and a detailed motivation on why it is preferred is provided. This information should also form part of the Plan of Study for EIA.

There are no alternatives other than the preferred alternative site and no-go option. The preferred alternative site and no-go option were assessed and evaluated – refer to the 201-page assessment of alternatives in **Appendix D**. An argument/motivation for evaluating the preferred alternative and “scoping out” the no-go option during the EIA is provided in the relevant sections of the SR, specifically the site selection matrix, a concluding statement and an impact statement, which ends with a detailed description motivating why the preferred site is preferred over the no-go option (**see Section G: Investigation of Alternatives; Site Selection Matrix, Concluding Statement, and Impact Statement**).

ii. Please ensure that the identified alternatives for the proposed activity are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 (1) (c) (d) and 2 (h) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 (2)(x)(xi).

A written 7-page investigation is provided under “A motivation for not considering Alternatives” (other than the preferred site and no-go option) in Section G: Investigation of Alternatives of the SR.

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

iii. Further note that the final Scoping Report must comply with Appendix 2, Regulation 2 (1) which states that “A scoping report must contain the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the process, informing all preferred alternatives”. The Regulations specifically requires that a preferred alternative be identified during the final Scoping Report.

The process for informing all preferred alternatives is explained in Section G: Investigation of Alternatives, including the subsections, entitled “Types of Alternatives” and “Identification of Alternatives”. A preferred alternative site has been identified – see above replies.

(d) Public Participation Process

i. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the FSR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the FSR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

All issues raised and comments received shall be adequately addressed in the FSR by copying the issues and/or comments into the “Comment and Response Report”, providing copies of the original comments and amending the draft Scoping Report where applicable. The Draft Scoping Report was distributed by email. A table summarizing the outcomes of the follow up action to verify receipt of the draft report for comment shall be provided in the PPP Report (**Appendix C**).

ii. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format, which includes the date when the comments were received. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.

The Comment and Response Report shall be provided as a separate document in an Annexure of the PPP Report (**Appendix C** of the FSR). The C&R Report will incorporate all historical comments, starting from the inception of the PPP, in a table format. The table of comments and responses shall include the dates when the comments were received, and responses given. Comments shall not be summarised. Adequate responses shall be provided.

iii. The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities.

Evidence of notification and invitation to comment, e.g., screenshot of the email distribution, shall be provided in an Annexure of the PPP Report (in **Appendix C** of the FSR). A Register of all registered I&APs, including the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities, that were included in the PPP process, e.g., invited to comment on the DSR, shall also be provided in the PPP Report.

(e) Specialist Assessments

i. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of the proposed grid and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.

This requirement has been forwarded to the team of specialists for their attention via email on Thursday 07th July 2022. The locations of the proposed grid and associated infrastructures, specifically the Solar PV facility, on-site substation, and distribution line were provided to the specialists. However, logically, the final locations may not be reflected in their final reports as footprints may need to be shifted out of no-go areas (**but still remain within the study area**) that have been demarcated by other specialists.

ii. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.

This requirement has been forwarded to the team of specialists for their attention via email on Thursday 07th July 2022. Some studies, such as heritage, palaeontology, socio-economic, traffic, etc. are not dependent on season. However, those studies that are, such as the avian impact assessment are still underway to record observations across different seasons.

iii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.

We in our capacity as the EAP will investigate and motivate a preferred recommendation in those instances where different specialists provide contradicting recommendations.

iv. It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.

The Protocols were referred to in the relevant specialists' Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are included with the Specialists' Plans of Study in **Appendix E** of the FSR.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

Section H: "A Plan of Study" in the FSR will be updated to include these requirements contained in

(f) Cumulative Assessment.

An entirely separate section called “Cumulative Assessment” shall be created in the EIA Report. It shall be inserted after the existing Impact Assessment section. This section will include a description of similar developments (Solar PV) within 30 km (and illustrated on a map). After this sub-section, there will be other introductory sub-sections that summarises or lists the identified cumulative impacts, as well as a detailed but brief description of the process for taking the specialist’s mitigations into consideration.

- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.

The specialists were requested to assess cumulative impacts relating to their environmental themes. Having said that, not all themes, such as Heritage and Paleontological themes are affected by cumulative impacts from neighbouring facilities as their impacts are localized to the physical footprint.

Nonetheless, the suite of identified cumulative impacts to be assessed shall be linked to/identified by each of the specialists. So, we will have sub-sections entitled, “Aquatic”, “Terrestrial Biodiversity”, “Geohydrology”, “Visual”, etc.

The cumulative impacts shall, as far as is possible, be quantified.

- Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.

The specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions relating to cumulative impacts will be summarised within each of our corresponding sub-sections, e.g., Avian, Aquatic, Hydrology, etc. Applicable (not necessarily all) recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions will then be linked to our identified (chosen) cumulative impacts to be assessed and then considered in our assessment of impact significance through its contribution to extent, duration, magnitude etc.

- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.

The Cumulative Assessment Section of the EIA Report will end with a Conclusion that summarises the outcomes of assessing each identified cumulative impact. Each of these findings will be carried over into the relevant Q&A sections of the Need & Desirability Section.

- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed

A cumulative impact environmental statement will be provided in the Conclusion of the Cumulative Assessment Section of the EIA Report.

General

When providing coordinates as part of the information submitted regarding the location of an activity as part of an application for environmental authorisation, such coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system as per regulation 5(6) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system has been and will continue to be used.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: "If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

The DSR is currently subject to a 30-day comment period, which ends on Thursday 14th July 2022. DFFE's comments including this response will be included in the FSR. We then plan to submit the FSR before the 25th July 2022, which is 44 days from the day the Application was received by DFFE (10th June 2022), taking into account the public holiday on the 16th June (Youth Day).

You are further reminded that the FSR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

The Scoping Report does comply with and follows the same sequence as the requirements contained in Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

We in our capacity as the EAP shall continually strive to meet the regulated timeframes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202

Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za



Appendix A: Consideration of Phased Listed Activities.

Listed Activity Number	Listed Activity Description	Applicability	Motivation
1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where – (i) the electricity output is more than 10 megawatts but less than 20 megawatts; or (ii) the output is 10 megawatts or less but the total extent of the facility covers an area in excess of 1 hectare;...	Not Applicable	LA1 of LN2 applies and is included in the application
2	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a non-renewable resource where...	Not Applicable	
3	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the slaughter of animals with a...	Not Applicable	
4	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceed...	Not Applicable	
5	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of...	Not Applicable	
6	The development and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of...	Not Applicable	
7	The development and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of sea-based cage culture of...	Not Applicable	
8	The development and related operation of hatcheries or	Not Applicable	

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	agri-industrial facilities...		
9	The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water – (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;...	Not Applicable	
10	The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, wastewater, return water, industrial discharge or slimes – (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;...	Not Applicable	
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;...	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
12	The development of – (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100	Not Applicable	LA14 in LN3 (relating to 10 m ² in an identified geographical area) applies and is included in the application.

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	square metres or more;...		
13	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water , including dams and reservoirs , with a combined capacity of 50 000 cubic metres or more,...	Not Applicable	
14	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good , where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	
15	The development of structures in the coastal public property where the development footprint is bigger than 50 square metres,...	Not Applicable	
16	The development and related operation of facilities for the desalination of water with a design capacity to produce more than 100 cubic metres of treated water per day.	Not Applicable	
17		17(i) a - d to (iv) a - d are excluded	
17	Development – (v) if no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary , whichever is the greater in respect of – (a) fixed or floating jetties and slipways; (b) tidal pools; (c) embankments; (d) rock revetments or stabilising structures including stabilising walls; or (e) infrastructure or structures with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more...	Not Applicable	

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18	The planting of vegetation or placing of any material on dunes or exposed sand surfaces of more than 10 square metres, within the littoral active zone , for the purpose of preventing the free movement of sand, erosion or accretion,...	Not Applicable	
19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;...	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
19A	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from – (i) the seashore; ...	Not Applicable	
20		excluded	
21		excluded	
22	Doesn't exist		
23	The development of cemeteries of 2 500 square metres or more in size.	Not Applicable	
24		(i) excluded	
24	The development of a road – (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 (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no	Not Applicable	The cumulative distance of developed road wider than 8 m shall not exceed 1 kilometre.

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	<p>reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres; but excluding a road – (a) which is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014; (b) where the entire road falls within an urban area; or (c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.</p>		
25	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with a daily throughput capacity of more than 2 000 cubic metres but less than 15 000 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	The cumulative daily throughput capacity shall not be more than 2 000 cubic metres or 2 000 000 litres.
26	Residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments of 1 000 square metres or more, on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes; ...	Not Applicable	
27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for...	Not Applicable	LA15 in LN2 (relating to 20 ha or more) applies and is included in the application.
28	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...	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
29		excluded	
30		excluded	
31		excluded	
32		excluded	

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33	The underground gasification of 300 kilograms or more coal per day, including any associated operation.	Not Applicable	
34		excluded	
35	The expansion of residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes , where the increased development footprint will exceed 1 000 square meters;...	Not Applicable	
36	The expansion of facilities or structures for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where – (i) the electricity output will be increased by 10 megawatts or more, excluding where such expansion takes place on the original development footprint; or (ii) regardless the increased output of the facility, the development footprint will be expanded by 1 hectare or more;	Not Applicable	LA1 of LN2 (relating to “development”) applies and is included in the application
37	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the generation of electricity from a non-renewable resource where...	Not Applicable	
38	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the slaughter of animals where the daily product throughput will be increased by more than...	Not Applicable	
39	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of animals in densities that will exceed...	Not Applicable	
40	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of poultry , excluding chicks younger than 20 days, where the capacity of the facility will be increased by...	Not Applicable	

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41	The expansion and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of...	Not Applicable	
42	The expansion and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of sea-based cage culture ...	Not Applicable	
43	The expansion and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes, where the development footprint of the hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities will be increased by 2 000 square metres or more.	Not Applicable	
44	The expansion of cemeteries by 2 500 square metres or more.	Not Applicable	
45	The expansion of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water or storm water where the existing infrastructure...	Not Applicable	
46	The expansion and related operation of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, wastewater, return water, industrial discharge or slimes where the existing infrastructure...	Not Applicable	
47	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase.	Not Applicable	LA11 of LN1 (relating to “development”) applies and is included in the application
48	The expansion of – (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or (ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.

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	square metres or more;		
49	Doesn't exist		
50	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams and reservoirs , where the combined capacity will be increased by 50 000 cubic metres or more.	Not Applicable	
51	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the storage, or storage and handling, of a dangerous good , where the capacity of such storage facility will be expanded by more than 80 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	
52	The expansion of structures in the coastal public property where the development footprint will be increased by more than 50 square metres, excluding such expansions within existing ports or harbours where there will be no increase in the development footprint of the port or harbour and excluding activities listed in activity 23 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies.	Not Applicable	
53	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the desalination of water where the design capacity will be expanded to produce an additional 100 cubic metres or more of treated water per day.	Not Applicable	
54		(i) a – d to (v) a – d is excluded	
54	The expansion of facilities – (v) if no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary , whichever is the greater;	Not Applicable	
55		excluded	

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56	The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres; ...	Not Applicable	There are no existing roads wider than 8 m in the study area.
57	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage where the capacity will be increased by 15 000 cubic metres or more per day and the development footprint will increase by 1 000 square meters or more.	Not Applicable	No existing facilities for the treatment of effluent in the study area.
58	The increase of the amount of coal gasified underground , where any such increase exceeds 300 kg per day, including any associated operation.	Not Applicable	
59	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the refining, extraction or processing of gas, oil or petroleum products where the installed capacity of the facility will be increased by 50 cubic metres or more per day, excluding facilities for the refining, extraction or processing of gas from landfill sites.	Not Applicable	
60	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of dangerous goods...	Not Applicable	
61		excluded	
62	Doesn't exist		
63	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transfer of water from and to or between any combination of the following...	Not Applicable	

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64		excluded	
65		excluded	
66	The expansion of a dam where...	Not Applicable	
66A	The expansion and related operation of hydraulic fracturing ,...	Not Applicable	
67	Phased activities for all activities...	Not Applicable	
LISTING NOTICE 2			
1		excluded	
2		excluded	
3		excluded	
4		excluded	
5	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the processing of a petroleum resource , including the beneficiation or refining of gas, oil or petroleum products with an installed capacity of 50 cubic metres or more per day,...	Not Applicable	
6		excluded	
7	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of dangerous goods ...	Not Applicable	
8		(i) is excluded	
8	The development of – (ii) runways or aircraft landing strips longer than 1,4	Not Applicable	

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	kilometres.		
9		excluded	
10		excluded	
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transfer of 50 000 cubic metres or more water per day , from and to or between any combination of the following...	Not Applicable	
12		excluded	
13	The physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture, or afforestation for the purposes of commercial tree, timber or wood production of 100 hectares or more.	Not Applicable	
14		excluded	
15		excluded	
16	The development of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high-water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.	Not Applicable	
17		excluded	
18		excluded	
19		excluded	
20		excluded	
21		excluded	
22		excluded	
23		excluded	

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24		excluded	
25		excluded	
26		excluded	
27	The development of a road (i) [a national road as defined in section 40 of the South African National Roads Agency Limited and National Roads Act, 1998 (Act No. 7 of 1998);] ... (ii) [a road administered by a provincial authority;]	Not Applicable	
27		(iii) is excluded	
28	Doesn't exist.		
29	The expansion and related operation of facilities for nuclear reaction including energy generation, the production, enrichment, processing, reprocessing, storage or disposal of nuclear fuels, radioactive products, nuclear waste or radioactive waste.	Not Applicable	
LISTING NOTICE 3			
1	The development of billboards exceeding 18 square metres in size outside urban areas, mining areas or industrial complexes.	Not Applicable	
2	The development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	The study area is not in an identified geographical area.
3	The development of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast or tower...	Not Applicable	
4	The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.	Not Applicable	The study area is not in an identified geographical area.

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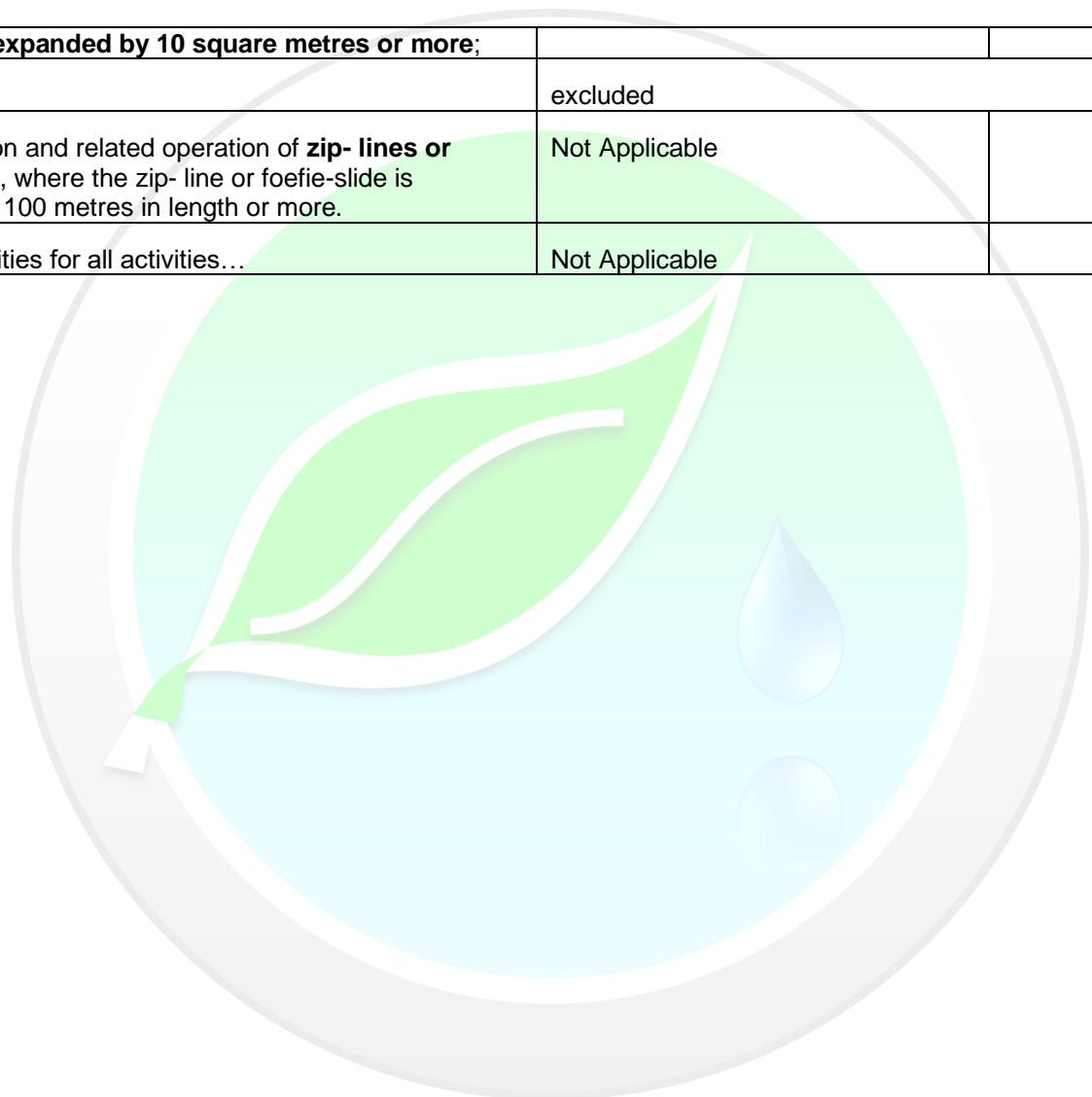
5	The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleep less than 15 people.	Not Applicable	
6	The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more.	Not Applicable	
7		excluded	
8		excluded	
9	The development and related operation of zip-lines or foefie-slides exceeding 100 metres in length.	Not Applicable	
10	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or 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.	Not Applicable	As long as any fuel storage tanks are not developed within 100 m from the edge of a watercourse or wetland this activity cannot be triggered.
11		excluded	
12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	Not Applicable	LA15 in LN2 (relating to 20 ha or more) applies and is included in the application.
13		excluded	
14	The development of – (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.

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15	The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning , on or after 02 August 2010.	Not Applicable	Land is zoned as Agriculture
16	The expansion of reservoirs, excluding dams, where the capacity will be increased by more than 250 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	No existing reservoirs will be expanded
17	The expansion of a resort, lodge, hotel, tourism or hospitality facilities where the development footprint will be expanded and the expanded facility can accommodate an additional 15 people or more.	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
18	The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.		
19	The expansion of runways or aircraft landing strips where the expanded runways or aircraft landing strips will be longer than 1,4 kilometres in length.	Not Applicable	
20		excluded	
21		excluded	
22	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good , where such storage facilities or infrastructure will be expanded by 30 cubic metres or more but no more than 80 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	No existing storage facilities within the study area
23	The expansion of – (i) dams or weirs where the dam or weir is expanded by 10 square metres or more; or (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical	Not Applicable	The study area is not in an identified geographical area.

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	footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;		
24		excluded	
25	The expansion and related operation of zip- lines or foefie-slides , where the zip- line or foefie-slide is expanded by 100 metres in length or more.	Not Applicable	
26	Phased activities for all activities...	Not Applicable	



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure F: Records of Meetings



Minutes of the Pre-application meeting with the Competent Authority (DFFE)



No. 3 Generaal Street, Machadodorp, 1170
PO Box 516, Machadodorp, 1170
Tel: 086 644 7179
Fax: 086 697 9316
info@ecoleges.co.za
www.ecoleges.co.za

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

MEETING MINUTES – PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

Location: Microsoft Teams
Date: 02 June 2022
Time: 10:00 – 11:00

Attendance: Wayne Hector (DFFE) - WHECTOR@dffe.gov.za
Lerato Mokoena (DFFE) – LMOKOENA@dffe.gov.za
Constance Musemburi (DFFE) - CMusemburi@dffe.gov.za
Shaun Macgregor (Ecoleges Environmental Consultants) - shaun@ecoleges.co.za
Shannon Farnsworth (Ecoleges Environmental Consultants) - shannon@ecoleges.co.za
Justin Bowers (Ecoleges Environmental Consultants) – justin@ecoleges.co.za
Hlengile Mtsweni (Ecoleges Environmental Consultants) – hlengile@ecoleges.co.za

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

ITEM NO.	AGENDA ITEMS	RESOLUTIONS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
1.	<u>OPENING AND WELCOME</u> Shaun declared the meeting open and welcomed all attendees.		
2.	<u>PROJECT BACKGROUND</u> Shaun gave a brief project background, being a full Scoping and EIA application for development of a 400 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape. Wayne inquired on the Phases 1, 2 and 3. Shaun responded with a brief background of the phases. That the two additional Solar PV facilities (Phase 2 and 3) which are both being undertaken as two separate EA applications by Ecoleges which will feed into the already authorised Phase 1. Responsible Case Officer at DFFE for the Phase 3 application was confirmed as Constance Musemburi.		
3.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 1:</u> Reference number for Pre-Application meeting	Wayne confirmed the reference number for the pre-application meeting is provided in the automated email generated when the meeting request was uploaded online.	Shannon
4.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 2:</u> Payment reference number being the center point GPS co-ordinate	Wayne suggested to email EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za to confirm the payment reference number.	Shaun/Shannon
5.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 3:</u> Online submission address	Wayne mentioned he would provide the latest protocol for submitting files online	Wayne (Protocol received via email on 02 June 2022 at 11:26)

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6.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 4:</u> Submitting application form together with the Draft Scoping Report (DSR)	Wayne confirmed that it is preferred that the application form and the DSR are submitted together.	
7.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 5:</u> Is the application form dated April 2021 still relevant	Wayne confirmed the April 2021 application form is the latest version.	
8.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 6:</u> Clearance of indigenous vegetation - should we apply for LA15 of LN2 (instead of LA27 of LN1) in case more than 20ha of vegetation will be cleared as the extent of indigenous vegetation clearing is unclear at this stage.	Lerato advised that the actual clearance should be calculated so that the correct listed activity could be included in the application.	
9.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 7:</u> Must the application be addressed to “For Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations” even if it is not an integrated licence application.	Wayne explained that an integrated application would, for example, include a waste management license as well. Wayne further confirmed that the application should still be addressed “For Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations” as the directorate deals with both normal and integrated applications.	
10.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 8:</u> Is a lease agreement sufficient as written consent from the landowner.	Wayne advised that a lease agreement is sufficient as long as the lease agreement states that the landowner is giving consent to the lessee to undertake the proposed development in this case a solar PV facility.	After the meeting Shaun conformed that the Lease and Option Agreement signed between the landowner and Applicant does grant the option for the Lessee (Applicant) to enter into a notarial lease agreement with the lessor (landowner). Furthermore, Annexure C of the said Agreement includes an initialed copy of the Notarial Deed of Lease for the construction of a solar PV facility.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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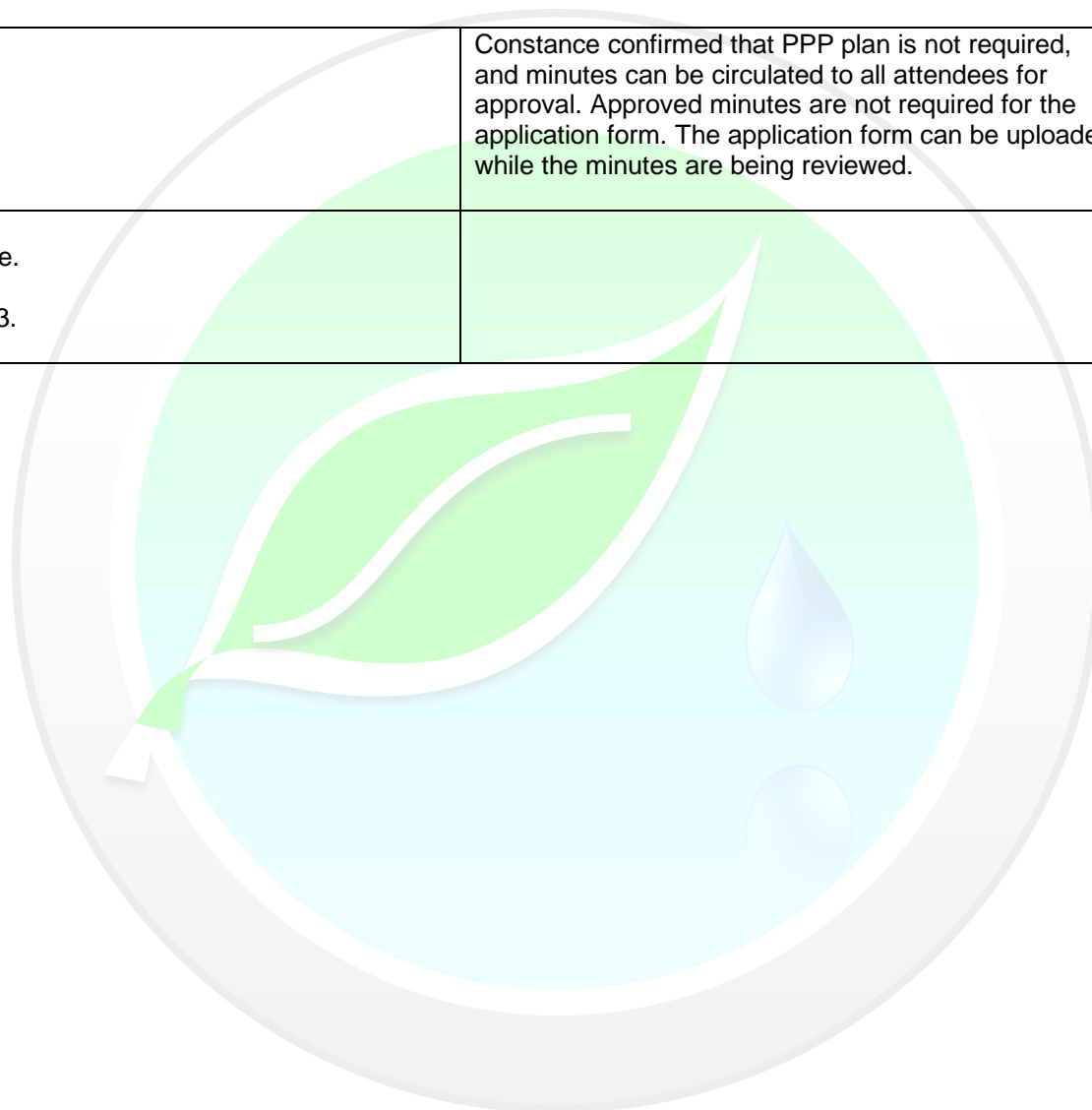
11.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 9:</u> Declarations of EAP and Applicant do not need to be stamped by a commissioner of oaths.	Wayne advised to follow what the form indicates.	
12.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 10:</u> Can you tick more than one sector under Table 1 in the application form.	Wayne advised to follow the classification as used when undertaking the Screening Assessment using the DFFE Screening Tool.	
13.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 11:</u> All activities applied for are development only, therefore no operational related aspects.	Wayne agreed but suggested that you could include certain operational aspects in the EMPr but under a Construction EMPr and not an Operational EMPr.	
14.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 12:</u> Other applications for Environmental Authorisation on the same property.	Wayne advised that proof of other or no other applications for the affected properties must be provided. Shaun said the landowner confirmed that there were no other applications for an EA on the property. Wayne said that was sufficient as long as it is indicated in the application.	
15.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 13:</u> Notice of Intent form to the relevant SAHRA. We registered the project and uploaded our Background Information Document onto SAHRIS. Can we submit SAHRA's comment/response instead?	Wayne advised to get advice directly from SAHRA.	
16.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 14:</u> Cumulative Impact.	Lerato advised that it is imperative to consider the cumulative impacts of surrounding developments, whether they have been constructed or not.	
17.	<u>AGENDA ITEM 15:</u> Specialists declaration templates.	Wayne advised that we use the relevant National DFFE templates.	

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

18.	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 16:</u> Systematic Biodiversity Plan adoption - Removed from agenda as was already confirmed with provincial department.</p>		
19.	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 17:</u> Generic EMPr (GN No. 435 dated 22 March 2019) in word format.</p>	<p>Wayne advised he will try and find word versions. Alternatively, pdf versions will have to be converted to word format.</p>	<p>Wayne to confirm if there are word formats for the Generic EMPr</p>
20.	<p><u>OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:</u></p> <p>Wayne enquired whether the Phase 3 will feed into the national grid</p> <p>Wayne enquired if Phase 3 has a substation and if the larger substation has been given a name.</p> <p>Wayne enquired if ESKOM has agreed to the connecting into the national grid.</p>	<p>Shaun mentioned that Phase 3 is connected to Phase 2 via an overhead distribution line which is then connected to Phase 1 and ultimately feeds into the national grid via a new Main Transmission Substation (MTS)</p> <p>Justin mentioned that the new MTS has not been developed yet but discussions regarding the naming of the new MTS are underway.</p> <p>Justin mentioned a CEL was done, and indicated that there was capacity for an additional 1,5 GW, specifically relating to the 400 kV powerline between the Hydra B and Poseidon MTS. All phases are not part of the Renewable Energy Feed in-Tariff (REFIT) program, but the Applicant has secured private offtake agreements.</p>	
21.	<p><u>WAY FORWARD:</u> Prepare pre-application meeting minutes</p> <p>PPP plan and minutes for approval by DFFE for inclusion in the application form</p>	<p>Shaun mentioned minutes will be drafted and circulated to all attendees for approval.</p> <p>Shaun requested when the minutes and PPP plan could be approved by DFFE.</p>	<p>Shannon</p>

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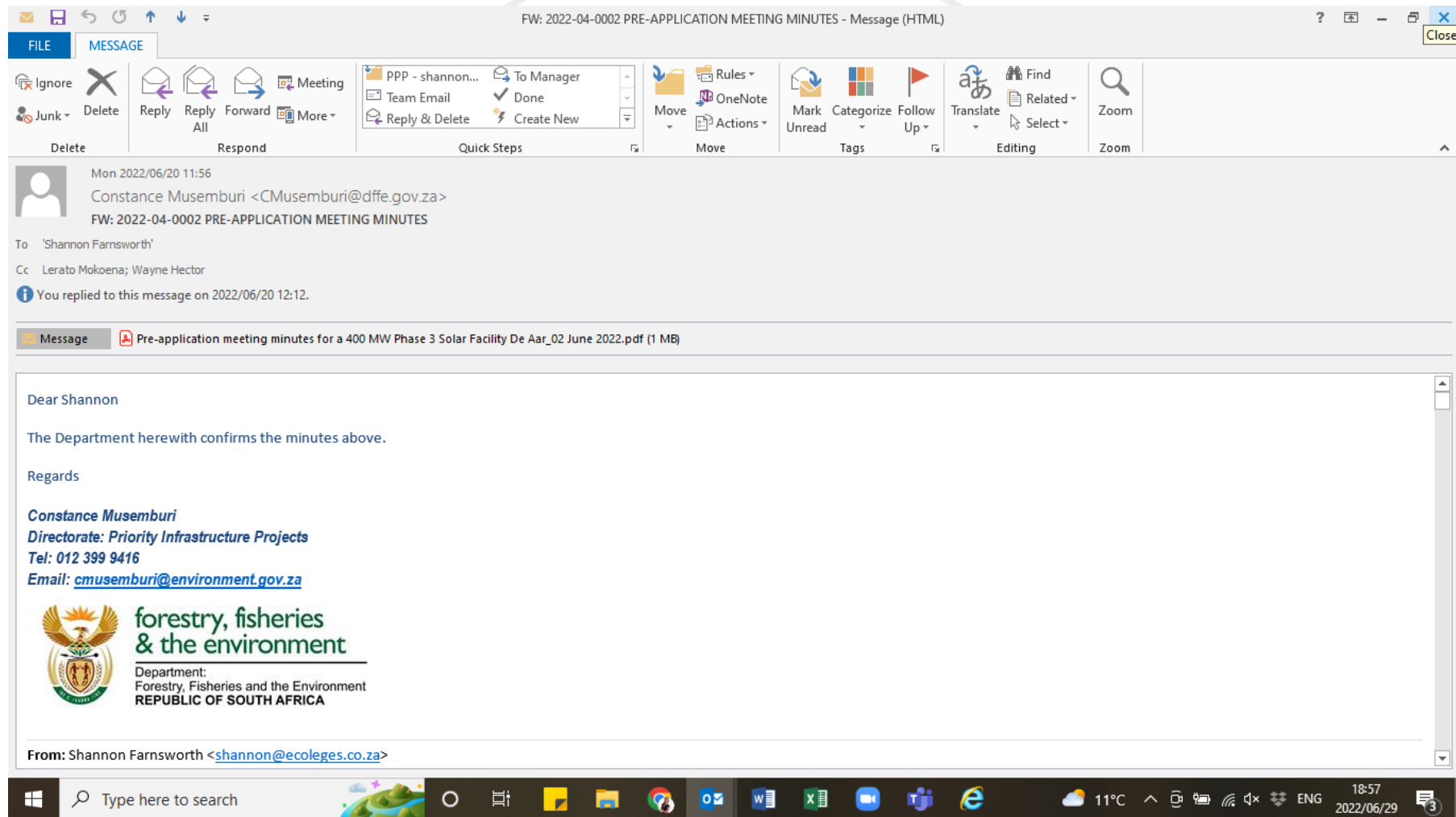
		Constance confirmed that PPP plan is not required, and minutes can be circulated to all attendees for approval. Approved minutes are not required for the application form. The application form can be uploaded while the minutes are being reviewed.	All to review meeting minutes once circulated
22.	<p>CLOSURE Shaun thanked all in attendance.</p> <p>The Meeting adjourned at 10:53.</p>		



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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Approval of pre- application meeting minutes of 02 June 2022.



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure G: Registered Interested and Affected Parties (as of 12th December 2022)



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

NAME	CELL	PHONE	FAX	EMAIL
APPLICANT / CLIENT				
Applicant				
Jean-Paul de Villiers (Managing Director - Soventix SA)	082 550 6672	021 852 7333	021 852 5089	jp.devilliers@soventix.com
Landowner				
Willem Retief	082 944 7167			wretief@webmail.co.za
EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY				
Municipal Manager				
Mr Isak Visser		053 632 9101	053 631 0105	visser@emthanjeni.co.za
Ms Marushel Meyers (PA)		053 632 9101		mmeyers@emthanjeni.co.za
Municipal Councillor of the Ward				
Lena Eliza Andrews (Ward 6)	071 808 9336			leandrews@emthanjeni.co.za
Mr Patrick Mhlawuli (Ward 8)	083 8829 450			ppmhlauli@emthanjeni.co.za
Ms Nontobeko Mkontwana (Ward 3)	076 505 9292			npmkontwana@emthanjeni.co.za
Rate Payers Association				
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Hentie vd Merwe				vdm@deaarsa.co.za
PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY				
Municipal Manager				
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Environmental Director				

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Mr Derrick Makhubele				DMakhubele@environment.gov.za
For the attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.				BCAdmin@environment.gov.za
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DEPARTMENT OF WATER & SANITATION				
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Franks Lindiwe				FranksL@dws.gov.za
Mr A. Abrahams	082 883 6741	053 830 8802	053 831 4534	AbrahamsA@dwa.gov.za
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SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY (SKA) - SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY (SARAO)				

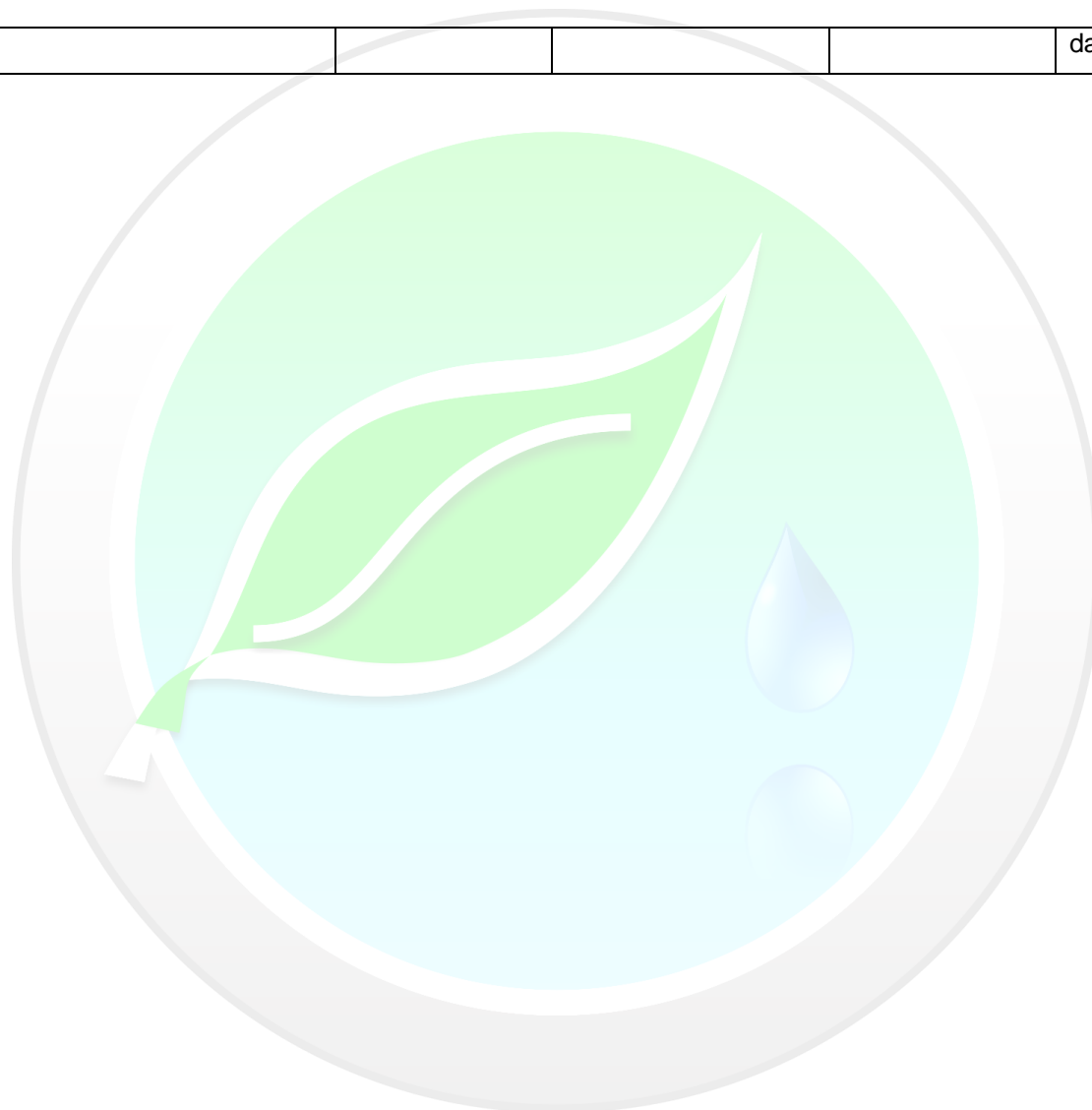
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ESKOM TRANSMISSION				
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Daan Liebenberg (Hydra, Plant)				LiebenDa@eskom.co.za
Keketso Mbete (Env Person)				MbeteKC@eskom.co.za
Craig Kivedo		082 492 6271		craig.kivedo@eskom.co.za
ESKOM MEGAWATT PARK - TRANSMISSION				
Mr John Geeringh (D1Y38)		011 516 7233	086 661 4064	john.geeringh@eskom.co.za
SANRAL				
Nicole Abrahams		021 957 4602		abrahamsn@nra.co.za
OWNER OF REMAINDER OF FARM NO. 149 (FARM GOODHOPE)				
Neville Vimpany	082 868 1991	041 366 1037		cathy.vimpany@yahoo.com
Ricky Vimpany				richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za
OWNER OF REMAINDER OF LEUWE FOUNTAIN NO. 27				
Louisa Oosthuizen	061 271 0268			louisa.oosthuizen25@gmail.com
Corneulis Oosthuizen	074 114 3950			cmo.karoo@gmail.com
OWNER OF PORTION 2 & 5 TAAIBOSCH FONTEIN NO. 41 (FARM:SKILPADSKUIL)				
Manual Orfao	082 784 1972			morfao@worldonline.co.za
REQUESTED TO BE REGISTERED				
Malherbe Du Toit				Du-Toit.Malherbe@abo-wind.com
Karen Low (juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd)	084 454 9944	021 831 6131		karen.low@juwi.co.za

David Nunez Blundell			david.nunez@siriuspower.co.za
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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Annexure H: Comments and Response Report



A Summary of the Main Issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties

Neighbours:

- 1) Safety and crime due to the development.
- 2) Nigh-time illumination of the area for 'security reasons.'
- 3) View impairment - the view will no longer be a nature scenery.
- 4) Decrease in property value
- 5) Road conditions
- 6) Risk of veld fires caused by workers during the construction of the plant.
- 7) Risk of solar panels being damaged during the hunting season
- 8) Heat generation and reflection by the thousands of black solar panels, angled directly in our direction, namely due north.

Government Departments and other Organisations:

- 1) Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) comments on DSR (06 July 2022) as it relates to the Application Form for the DSR, Layout and Sensitivity Maps, Assessment of Alternatives, Public Participation Process, Specialists Assessments, Cumulative Assessment and General (**Annexure E and I**).
- 2) Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) acceptance letter of the FSR dated 02 September 2022 (**Annexure I**).
- 3) Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) comments on DEIA (07 December 2022) (**Annexure I**).

A Summary of the Response from the Practitioner to the Issues raised by the Interested and Affected Parties

Neighbours:

- 1) Security during construction
 - Security during construction will be mitigated by erecting the perimeter fence first to prevent any movement out of the development footprint.
 - No accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site.

- Furthermore, the number of construction workers will be limited by building the facility in sequential phases of 100 MW blocks as opposed to trying to build the 400 MW facility in one go.
- Security will be appointed throughout construction. All contractors and workers will need to wear photo identification cards and vehicles will need to display vehicle logos, making it easier for surrounding landowners (farmers) to identify strangers. Furthermore, it will be proposed that the applicant communicate with the landowners before the construction phase commences to formalise and familiarise the local farmers with the aforesaid security arrangements.
- An induction programme that includes a Code of Conduct for all contractors and sub-contractors shall be developed.

Security during operation

- Security will be appointed throughout operation to discourage criminal elements. The facility will also be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence with controlled access using a security gate. Furthermore, the perimeter fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ security cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.
- 2) There will be no to minimum lighting (the exceptions being the substation as it is an Eskom requirement, and key operational areas like the security control room and gate). The fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.
 - 3) A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. The appointed specialist undertaking the Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa. The site assessment for the above specialist assessment is scheduled for 14 March 2022. Stephen will contact you beforehand for permission to access your farm so that he can investigate your concern. We will keep you updated on the findings and any proposed mitigation measures proposed by the appointed visual specialist during the EIA process.
 - 4) A Socio-economic Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We have asked the specialist to as far as is possible research the validity of the said claim that solar PV facilities in rural areas reduce the property value of farms. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.
 - 5) The applicant shall maintain any deterioration to the district gravel roads resulting from increased traffic during construction.
A Traffic Impact Assessment shall be undertaken. Specialist Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.
 - 6) Risk of veld fires both during the construction and operational phases has been identified as a potential impact. It should be noted that no accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site. Nonetheless, we intend on addressing this concern by

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proposing the following mitigations.

- Open fires are prohibited;
 - Burning of waste is prohibited; and
 - Maintenance of firebreaks around the perimeter of the proposed development.
- 7) Your concern is a real risk and very much appreciated. We welcome any suggestions that will improve the safety of neighbouring landowners and their property during the hunting season, such as identifying no shooting zones, notifying neighbouring properties of imminent hunts, hunters taking out the appropriate insurances, etc.
- 8) Heat generation is something we will be researching; it is a phenomenon called the heat island effect but should be localised to the footprint where the sun's energy is absorbed.

Government Departments and other Organisations:

- 1) The EAP responded to each comment submitted by DFFE on the DSR via a letter dated 15 July 2022 (**Annexure E and I**).

Name of Authority informed	Comments Received (Yes or No)
Emthanjeni Local Municipality	No
Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality	No
Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	No
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry– Northern Cape	No
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & Environment (National)	Yes – comments on DSR dated 06 July 2022, comments on the FSR dated 02 September 2022 and comments on the DEIA dated 07 December 2022 (Annexure I).


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Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency)	No – however an application for an Integrated Water Use License (WULA) has been submitted (Application Notification: WU26437)
Department of Minerals and Resources and Energy (DMRE)	No
Department of Roads & Public Works	Yes – comments on the DSR dated 12 April 2022 (Annexure I)
South African Heritage Resources Agency	Yes – comments on the HIA and PIA dated 04 October 2022 and 09 December 2022 (Annexure I)
South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA)	No
SALT (South African Large Telescope)	No
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) – SKA and MeerKAT	Yes – “project represents a low risk of interference” as per response letter dated 16 March 2022 (Annexure E and I)

Date of comment	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
11 February 2022 Email	“Bletterman/Taaibos 1 132kV Overhead Line is the power line running right next to the proposed Phase 3, there are no Tx lines close to this proposed development, however the Hydra Poseidon 1 & 2 400kV power lines runs through the property on the south western side.”	Email on Friday, 11 February 2022 11:34 “Hi John, Thank you for this information. Do you have a spatial map showing this or google earth files I could overlay?”

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<p>Environmental Management Grid Planning: Land and Rights Eskom Transmission Division (John Geeringh)</p>	<p>“Here is an indication. Lines names and numbers are on the poles on site.</p> <p>Regards John”</p>	<p>Yours sincerely, Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)”</p> <p>Map received.</p>
<p>17 February 2022 Email South African Civil Aviation Authority (Leona Reynolds)</p>	<p>“To whom it may concern</p> <p>Please direct all correspondence to Themba Thabethe on thabethet@caa.co.za</p> <p>Sincerely, Leona Reynolds“</p>	
<p>17 February 2022 Email DFFE: Biodiversity Conservation, Mainstreaming EIA (Aulicia Maifo)</p>	<p>“Good morning Hlengile</p> <p>Hope you are well.</p> <p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge the receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the mentioned project. Kindly notify us as soon</p>	<p>Email on Thursday, 17 February 2022 15:14</p> <p>“Hello Aulicia,</p> <p>Thank you for the below email and acknowledgment of receipt. Yourself and Mr Seoka Lekota have been added to the Interested and Affected Parties register in order to receive further reports during the public participation process.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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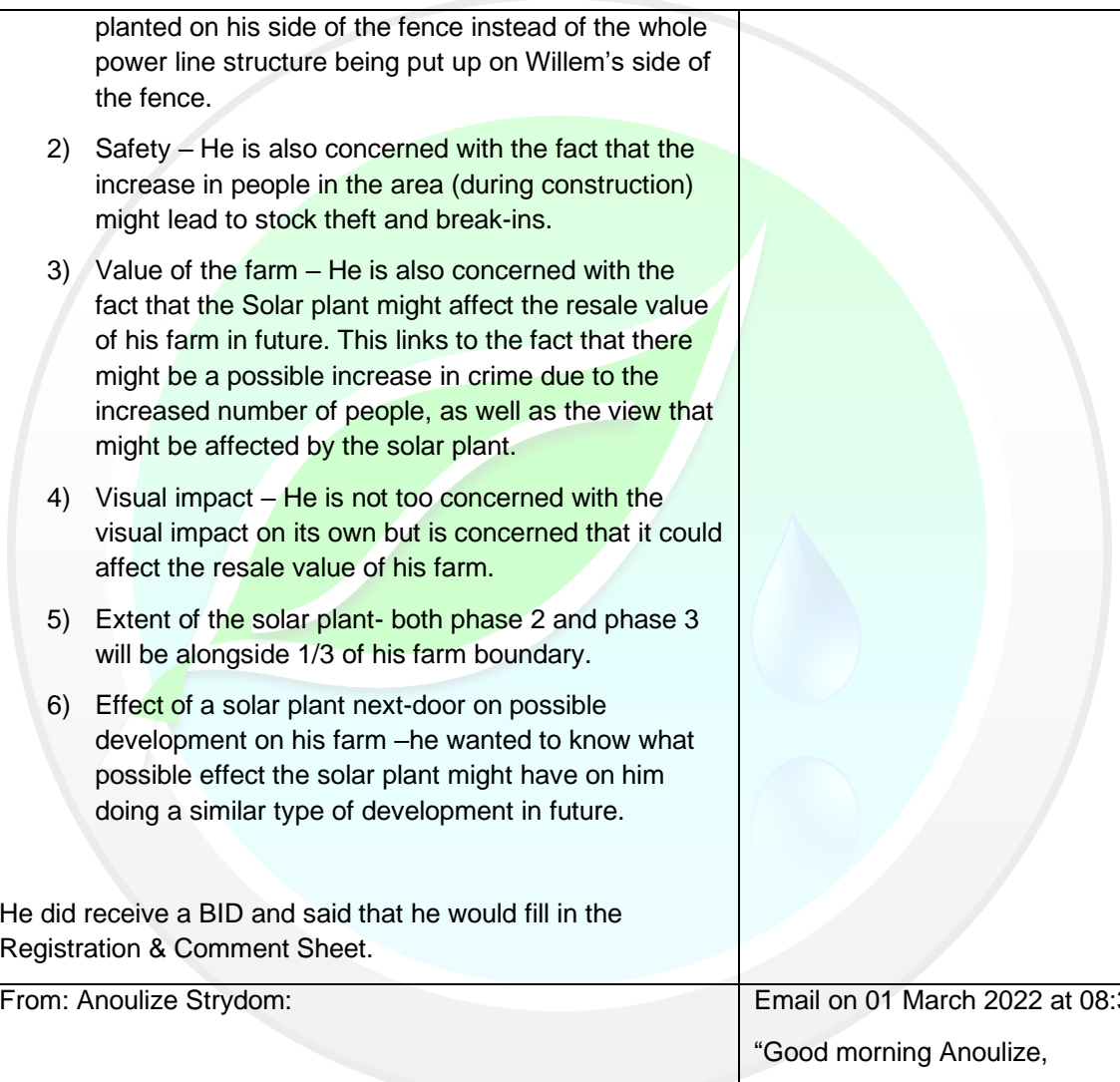
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	<p>as the report becomes available.</p> <p>Please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Ms. Aulicia Maifo”</p>	Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)”
<p>18 February 2022</p> <p>Telephone</p> <p>Owner of Remainder of Leuwe Fountain No. 27 (Corneulis Oosthuizen)</p>	<p>Cornelius mentioned he can provide fencing, machinery and accommodation for phase 3.</p>	<p>Shannon Farnsworth noted his telephonic comments and would provide the information to the applicant.</p>
<p>22 February 2022</p> <p>Telephone</p> <p>Owner of Remainder of Farm No. 149 (Farm Goodhope) (Richard Vimpany)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Visual Effect – He is mainly concerned with the fact that the solar plant will impact his view. He explained that they have a ridge behind the big dam we saw when driving along the border fence-line, and that they have quite an extensive view over Willem’s farm and that they will then possibly be looking right onto the panels. 2) Increased traffic & number of people – He is concerned that the major increase in people working 	<p>Email on Tuesday, 22 February 2022 15:42</p> <p>“Hi Richard,</p> <p>As discussed over the phone, please find attached the kmz. files of the proposed areas for the Phase 3 development. If you download the files and you click on them they will open Google Earth on your computer and show you the demarcated areas identified for the development. Please note that on the kmz. file it does for example cover the ridge next to your access gate (where the notice was put up), however that area has been</p>

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	<p>on the construction of the plant will pose a risk to both their personal safety as well as to their livestock and game (theft & poaching).</p> <p>3) The effect on the value of their farm – He is concerned that if their farm does have a view over the solar plant or is being affected by things like theft/poaching, that it could potentially affect the resale value of their farm.</p> <p>4) He had a concern with the access road to the Phase 2 & 3 area, but I have told him that it will not be on the road/close to his access gate and that it will be located on the road running parallel to the railway (in-between Willem’s farms), so that issue seems resolved.</p> <p>He asked to see the following:</p> <p>1) Proposed area demarcated for the Phase 2 and Phase 3 development (Map) to see the possible areas where it might affect their farm.</p> <p>2) He hasn’t received a BID yet, so I said I would email that to him as well.</p>	<p>marked by specialists as a “No-go” area and no panels will therefore be put up on that ridge. There might be other areas like that as well, but this footprint will just provide you with a broad overview of the proposed area.</p> <p>I have also attached the BID where you can find more detailed information about the project. You can find the Registration and Comment Sheet towards the end of the document where you can express any concerns or suggestions. Please note that this will be documented and form an important part of the final application.</p> <p>Thank you very much for reaching out. You are welcome to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.</p> <p>Kind regards, Anika Steynberg</p>
<p>23 February 2022</p> <p>Telephone</p> <p>Owner of Portion 2 & 5 Taaibosch Fontein No. 41 Farm: Skilpadskuil (Manual</p>	<p>He had the following concerns:</p> <p>1) Power line – He was concerned with the fact that on the notice board it indicates that the power line will be right on the border, i.e. if you look at the power line structure as an H that one pole will be planted on Willem’s side of the fence and the other will be</p>	<p>Response given once formal comments were received on the BID on 22nd March 2022.</p>

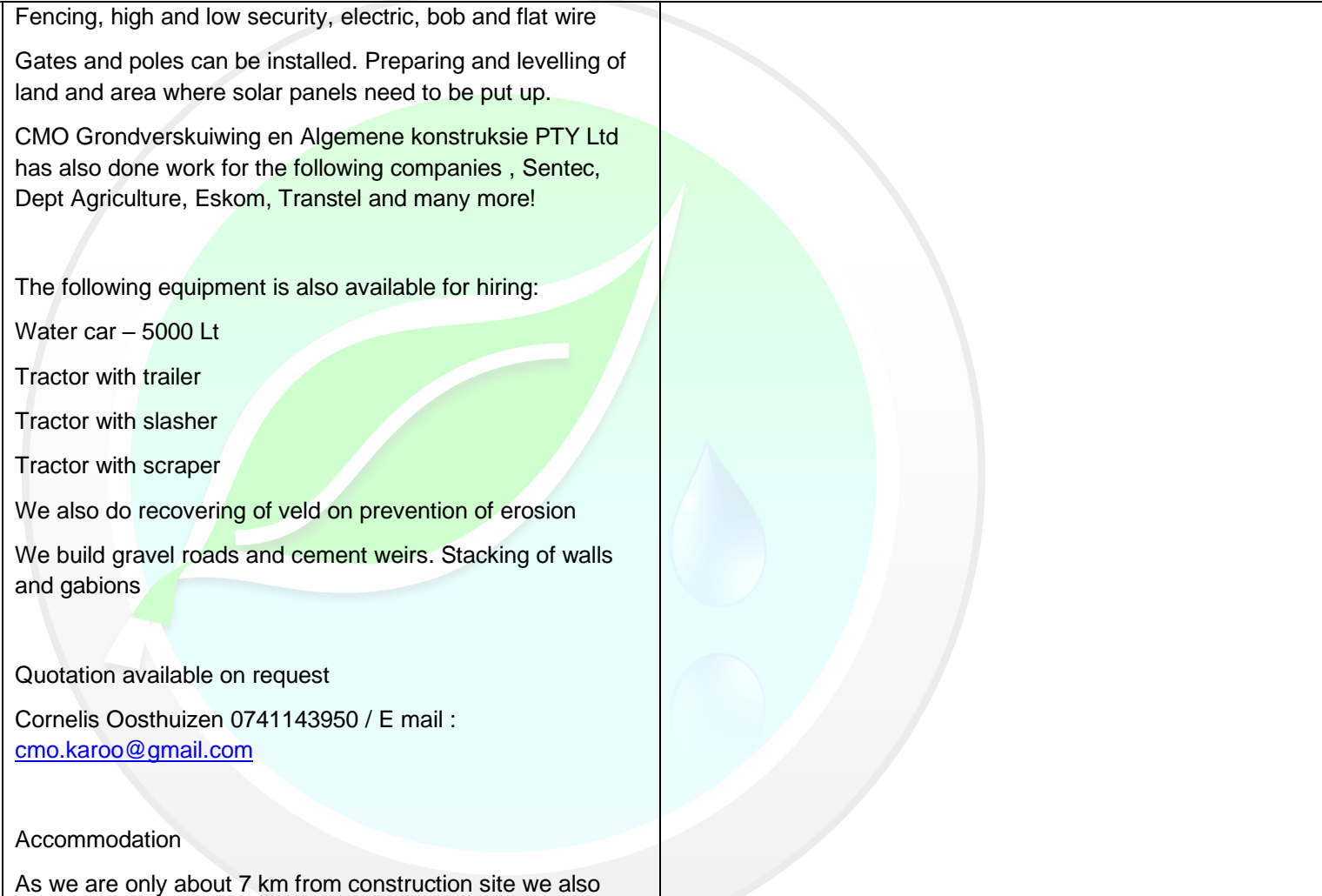
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<p>(Manny) Orfao</p>	<p>planted on his side of the fence instead of the whole power line structure being put up on Willem's side of the fence.</p> <p>2) Safety – He is also concerned with the fact that the increase in people in the area (during construction) might lead to stock theft and break-ins.</p> <p>3) Value of the farm – He is also concerned with the fact that the Solar plant might affect the resale value of his farm in future. This links to the fact that there might be a possible increase in crime due to the increased number of people, as well as the view that might be affected by the solar plant.</p> <p>4) Visual impact – He is not too concerned with the visual impact on its own but is concerned that it could affect the resale value of his farm.</p> <p>5) Extent of the solar plant- both phase 2 and phase 3 will be alongside 1/3 of his farm boundary.</p> <p>6) Effect of a solar plant next-door on possible development on his farm –he wanted to know what possible effect the solar plant might have on him doing a similar type of development in future.</p> <p>He did receive a BID and said that he would fill in the Registration & Comment Sheet.</p>	
<p>28 February 2022 Email</p>	<p>From: Anoulize Strydom:</p>	<p>Email on 01 March 2022 at 08:34: "Good morning Anoulize,</p>

Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

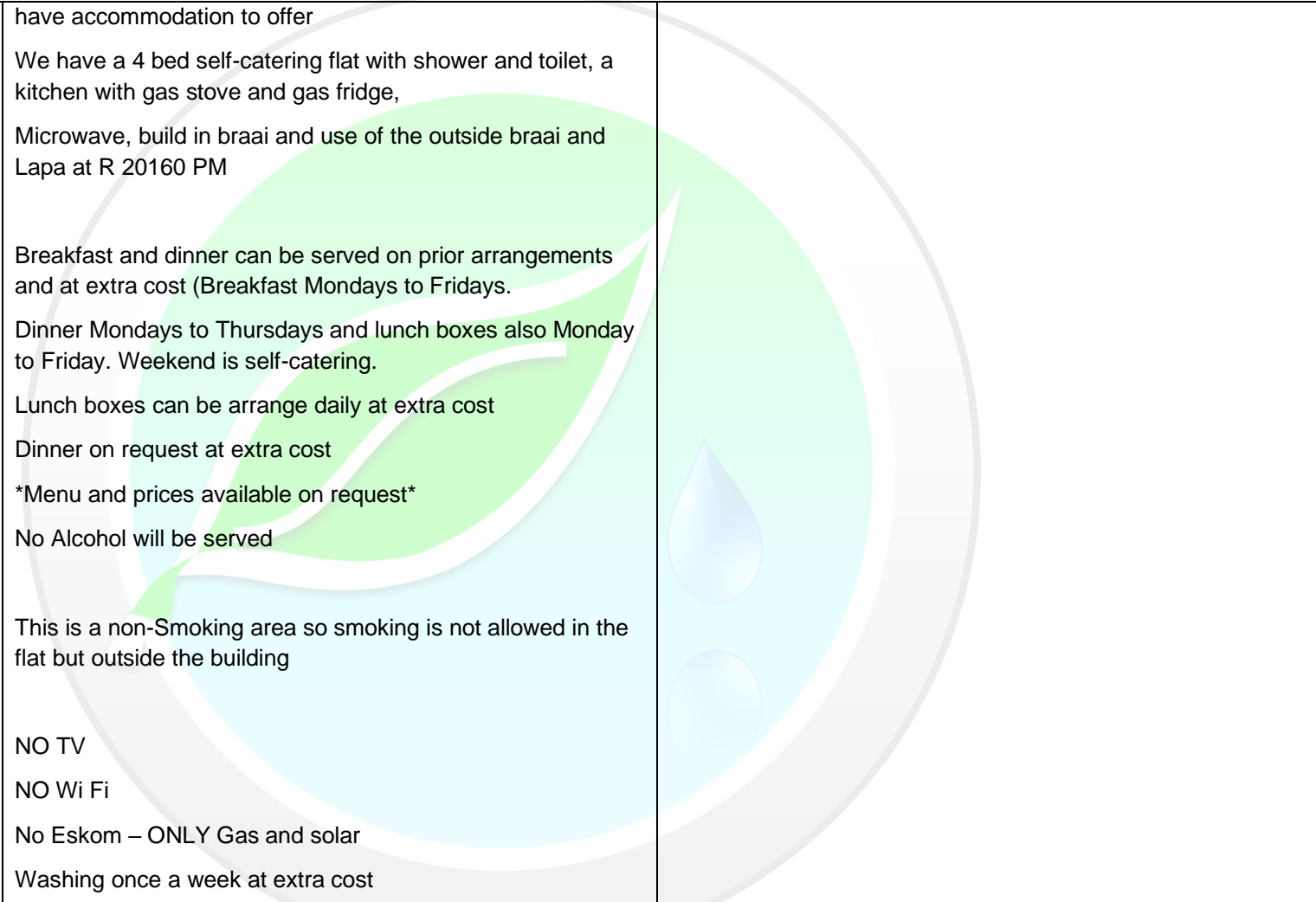
<p>Owner of Remainder of Leuwe Fountain No. 27 (Corneulis Oosthuizen)</p>	<p>“Good day Justin / Shannon Farmsworth / Developers from Soventix and JP de Villiers</p> <p>Shannon, with reference to our telephonic conversation on 17 February 2002 , with myself, Cornelis Oosthuizen , owner of CMO Grondverskuiwing en Algemene konstruksie PTY LTD , and owner of Leeuwfontein, neighbour farm of De Bad and Goedehoop, where development of a 300 MW solar PV Facility in De Aar is planned , the following was discussed:</p> <p>CMO Grondverskuiwing en Algemene Kostruksie Pty LTD is Registered at CIPC and CIDB. Registration number 2017/254195/07 and also BEE Registered.</p> <p>CMO has previously worked on the 2 solar farms outside De Aar as an outsourced contractor for Scatec and also the wind farm (2015 - 2017) at Phillipstown as an outsourced contractor for CSV Construction and Adenco</p> <p>Flat wrap and high security and low security fencing was done at the solar farms in De Aar.</p> <p>At the wind farm , Phillipstown, we have installed all the gates and redirected some fencing and has put up new fencing where needed.Farm fencing and double swing gates were installed on wind farm Phillipstown as required.</p> <p>The following services by CMO are also available</p>	<p>Thank you for the information you submitted on both your ability to provide various services during the construction phases, and the accommodation options. I see you did include the client (Soventix) in your email, so they are also aware of your offering. We have also let our specialists know of your accommodation options, who will be carrying out the Phase 2 & 3 specialist assessments.</p> <p>Kind regards, Justin Bowers”</p>
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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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	<p>Fencing, high and low security, electric, bob and flat wire</p> <p>Gates and poles can be installed. Preparing and levelling of land and area where solar panels need to be put up.</p> <p>CMO Grondverskuiwing en Algemene konstruksie PTY Ltd has also done work for the following companies , Sentec, Dept Agriculture, Eskom, Transtel and many more!</p> <p>The following equipment is also available for hiring:</p> <p>Water car – 5000 Lt</p> <p>Tractor with trailer</p> <p>Tractor with slasher</p> <p>Tractor with scraper</p> <p>We also do recovering of veld on prevention of erosion</p> <p>We build gravel roads and cement weirs. Stacking of walls and gabions</p> <p>Quotation available on request</p> <p>Cornelis Oosthuizen 0741143950 / E mail : cmo.karoo@gmail.com</p> <p>Accommodation</p> <p>As we are only about 7 km from construction site we also</p>	
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	<p>have accommodation to offer</p> <p>We have a 4 bed self-catering flat with shower and toilet, a kitchen with gas stove and gas fridge, Microwave, build in braai and use of the outside braai and Lapa at R 20160 PM</p> <p>Breakfast and dinner can be served on prior arrangements and at extra cost (Breakfast Mondays to Fridays.</p> <p>Dinner Mondays to Thursdays and lunch boxes also Monday to Friday. Weekend is self-catering.</p> <p>Lunch boxes can be arrange daily at extra cost</p> <p>Dinner on request at extra cost</p> <p>*Menu and prices available on request*</p> <p>No Alcohol will be served</p> <p>This is a non-Smoking area so smoking is not allowed in the flat but outside the building</p> <p>NO TV</p> <p>NO Wi Fi</p> <p>No Eskom – ONLY Gas and solar</p> <p>Washing once a week at extra cost</p>	
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	<p>Cleaning of flat twice a week (included in price per month)</p> <p>Linnen and cutlery will be supplied – NO Towels</p> <p>Coffee, sugar rusks and milk will be supplied daily</p> <p>Flat rental payable in advanced.</p> <p>Breakfast, dinner, lunch boxes will be payable at the end of every month.</p> <p>For ANY further info regarding CMO Grondverskuiwing en Algemene Konstruksie you can contact me, Cornelis Oosthuizen at : 074 114 3950 or via e mail at : cmo.karoo@gmail.com</p> <p>For Self-catering flat arrangements you can contact Anoulize at 083 309 7309 or via e mail at : anoulizes@gmail.com</p> <p>Hope to hear from you soon</p> <p>Kind regards Cornelis Oosthuizen”</p>	
<p>03 March 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Owner of Remainder of Farm</p>	<p>“Dear Anika</p>	<p>Responded via Email on Friday, March 4, 2022 at 12:26 PM</p> <p>“Afternoon Richard,</p> <p>Thank you very much!</p>

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<p>No. 149 (Farm Goodhope) (Richard Vimpany)</p>	<p>As per our recent discussions, please find the formal concerns attached, as prepared on behalf of my father Neville R. Vimpany, the land owner.</p> <p>Kind regards Richard Vimpany”</p> <p>(Comments attached as Annexure E and I)</p>	<p>Thank you for your precipitation, please feel free to contact us if there are any more questions or concerns.</p> <p>Kind regards, Anika Steynberg”</p> <p>Responded via Email on Thursday, 10 March 2022 at 14:28</p> <p>“Hi Richard, Please find attached the response to the comments you filled in on the BID.</p> <p>Kind regards, Anika Steynberg”</p> <p>(Response attached as Annexure E and I)</p>
<p>11 March 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Owner of Remainder of Farm No. 149 (Farm Goodhope) (Richard Vimpany)</p>	<p>“Dear Shannon and Anika</p> <p>Thank you for your response.</p> <p>Unfortunately having an excerpt from the <i>Firearms Control Act</i> recited to me, along with several other dismissive counter-arguments, has not offered us any comfort whatsoever. As such, I will respond in kind.</p> <p><i>Shall we call a meeting with my springbok, gemsbok and blesbok and instruct them to limit their movements to the opposite site of the camps during the next hunt, to ensure</i></p>	<p>Responded via Email on Friday, 11 March 2022 at 22:25</p> <p>“Good evening, Richard</p> <p>I am the lead EAP overseeing the EIA process. Anika is responsible for engaging directly with I&APs as she has done, and I am particularly proud of her following up on leads and teasing comments out of Interested and Affected Parties, like yourself instead of waiting for them to approach us. It buys everyone time; the earlier we can start engaging on sensitive and serious concerns such as yours the more time we have to investigate and find amicable solutions. Shannon works alongside Anika by drafting the formal responses, but I am ultimately responsible for reviewing and revising the responses</p>

	<p><i>that no rifles are ever pointed in the direction of Soventix's nice new solar panels???</i></p> <p>The moment a neighbour does anything that impacts our present freedoms and forces us to change the way we live and operate, this becomes a problem.</p> <p>Having engaged with my own associates within the solar power generation industry, who have themselves been instrumental in similar solar PV developments throughout Southern Africa, our concerns have been validated.</p> <p>In particular, but not limited to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evidently, <i>“the De Aar area ranks as one of the highest incidents of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome in SA, a likely by-product of the influx of labour from outside, which then remains behind once such projects have been completed.”</i> <p>I accept that such post-development socio economic factors are not the developer's concern...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. “Increased crime during the construction phases in particular, but likely to continue thereafter.” <p>Crime may be an inevitable reality in SA, but I have a right to oppose this in my vicinity and object to any risk forced upon our family.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The likelihood of large industrial diesel generators having to be added to supplement production at night, should the development exceed a specified 	<p>including those that are the subject of your email below.</p> <p>I hope you do not mind, but I have taken the liberty of responding with bolded text in your email below.</p> <p>Thank you and keep strong.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Shaun MacGregor</p> <p>Dear Shannon and Anika</p> <p>Thank you for your response.</p> <p>Unfortunately having an excerpt from the <i>Firearms Control Act</i> recited to me, Shannon did warn me that you would not like it, but I couldn't resist along with several other dismissive counter-arguments I am genuinely sorry you feel that way. It certainly was not our intention to come across as dismissive, particularly by asking the applicable specialists to revise their scope to include your concerns, offering solutions by way of mitigations and in the case of unknowns, referring to the studies that will hopefully provide us with answers to make informed decisions going forward. Your concerns are now a part of our EIA process, and I assure you that they will not be dismissed ... please immediately contact me if you believe</p>
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	<p>size/output.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Nigh-time illumination of the area for 'security reasons.' 5. Heat generation and reflection by the thousands of black solar panels, angled directly in our direction, namely due north. <p>In conclusion, I will address your request for elaboration concerning the <u>Comment #3</u> in the bid document, once we have consulted with all our animals. We're scientifically uncertain whether any of the above factors might upset them or their habitat in any way. Maybe they can be swayed by way of a profit-share scheme...</p> <p>Nevertheless, this is your job by way of the EIA.</p> <p>All jokes aside, we eagerly await your findings and will only escalate our concerns in the event that this becomes necessary.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping us informed."</p>	<p>we have dropped the ball in any of our reports (excluded any one of your concerns) , has not offered us any comfort whatsoever If I felt I was being brushed off, I would also feel uncomfortable. As such, I will respond in kind</p> <p><i>Shall we call a meeting with my springbok, gemsbok and blesbok and instruct them to limit their movements to the opposite site of the camps during the next hunt, to ensure that no rifles are ever pointed in the direction of Soventix's nice new solar panels???</i> That won't be necessary.</p> <p>The moment a neighbour does anything that impacts our present freedoms and forces us to change the way we live and operate, this becomes a problem. I presume you are specifically talking about the freedom to shoot an animal that is between the hunter and Willem's property. Assuming there is a slope towards Willem's property, is it possible from your elevation to only shoot an animal as long as there is earth behind it, e.g., below the natural horizon, or is the slope too gradual? We could also investigate the feasibility of pulling the solar panels a bit further back from the common boundary, ... that might reduce their height above the natural horizon from your perspective? Please respond to these questions so that I know whether we need to action</p>
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		<p>them.</p> <p>Having engaged with my own associates within the solar power generation industry, who have themselves been instrumental in similar solar PV developments throughout Southern Africa, our concerns have been validated.</p> <p>In particular, but not limited to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Evidently, <i>“the De Aar area ranks as one of the highest incidents of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome in SA, a likely by-product of the influx of labour from outside, which then remains behind once such projects have been completed.”</i> Please can you be so kind as to reference or provide the source of this quote. I would like to read it in its entirety and bring it to the attention of our Socio-economic specialist. <p>I accept that such post-development socio economic factors are not the developer’s concern...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. <i>“Increased crime during the construction phases in particular, but likely to continue thereafter.”</i> Again, the reference would be useful. <p>Crime may be an inevitable reality in SA, but I have a right to oppose this in my vicinity and object to any risk forced upon our family. We wholeheartedly support your right to oppose crime!</p>
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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

		<p>3. The likelihood of large industrial diesel generators having to be added to supplement production at night, should the development exceed a specified size/output. There will be no diesel generators; it doesn't form part of our application.</p> <p>4. Nigh-time illumination of the area for 'security reasons.' There will be no to minimum lighting (the exceptions being the substation as it is an Eskom requirement, and key operational areas like the security control room and gate). The fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.</p> <p>5. Heat generation and reflection by the thousands of black solar panels, angled directly in our direction, namely due north. Heat generation is something we will be researching; it is a phenomenon called the heat island effect but should be localised to the footprint where the sun's energy is absorbed. Then forgive me for sounding dismissive, and yes the solar panels will be facing the northern hemisphere, but they will be tracking the sun, e.g. facing/reflecting toward the sky, and from an elevated position relative to your farm.</p> <p>In conclusion, I will address your request for elaboration concerning the <u>Comment #3</u> in the bid document, once we</p>
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		<p>have consulted with all our animals. We're scientifically uncertain whether any of the above factors might upset them or their habitat in any way. Maybe they can be swayed by way of a profit-share scheme...</p> <p>Nevertheless, this is your job by way of the EIA. Accepted, ... wish Dr Dolittle was on the team.</p> <p>All jokes aside, we eagerly await your findings and will only escalate our concerns in the event that this becomes necessary. Please do, and we sincerely appreciate the light-hearted humour, particularly in light of the worries this development has raised with you and your family.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping us informed. Thank you for keeping us on our toes.</p>
<p>04 March 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Heritage Officer</p> <p>SAHRA (Natasha Higgitt)</p>	<p>"Hi Ecoleges,</p> <p>This is an automatic reminder from the site SAHRA. You have received a new private message from Natasha Higgitt.</p> <p>To read your message on SAHRIS,</p> <p>First LOGIN TO SAHRIS</p> <p>then, follow this link:</p>	<p>Responded via Email on Sunday, 06 March 2022 at 15:29</p> <p>"Hi Natasha,</p> <p>Thank you for the interim comments (case No. 17965) for the development Of A 400 Mw Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility On The Remainder Of Farm Goede Hoop 26c And Portion 3 Of Farm Goede Hoop 26c, Between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.</p> <p>The comments have been incorporated into the public participation process of the EIA.</p>

	<p>https://sahris.sahra.org.za/messages/view/32183</p> <p>Alternatively, login to SAHRIS and navigate to www.sahra.org.za/messages</p> <p>The body of your message reads:</p> <p>****</p> <p>Good morning,</p> <p>Please note that an Interim Comment has been issued on SAHRIS Case ID 17965. Please see link to the case.</p> <p>Kind regards, Natasha Higgitt”</p> <p>Main comments as per Interim Comment (Annexure E and I):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An application specific Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) is required. This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components.• The assessment must include an assessment of the	<p>Yours sincerely, Shannon Farnsworth (<i>Reg, EAP.</i>)”</p>
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	<p>impact to archaeological and palaeontological resources. The assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments. • 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>17 March 2022 Email South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) (Thato Nape)</p>	<p>“Dear Shannon Kindly see the attached SARAO response letter for the 400 MW Solar PV facility. Regards, Thato Nape”</p>	<p>Responded via Email on Friday, 18 March 2022 at 09:44 “Hi Thato, Thank you very much for the response letter. Excuse my ignorance but this is the first EIA project I have worked on where radio frequency interference (RFI) has been identified as an impact using the National Department of Environmental Screening Tool as well as the AGAA has come up.</p>

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	<p>Main comment (Annexure E and I):</p> <p>SARAO has undertaken a high-level impact assessment and based on the information provided it was determined that the project represents a low risk of interference to the SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 57.02 dBm/Hz. As such, we do not have any objection to the proposed development.</p>	<p>The National Department requests a “compliance statement” to confirm or dispute the medium sensitivity rating for RFI that was given when doing the desktop screening report tool, could the letter you have provided be regarded as confirming the risk to be low with regards to SKA and Meerkat and any other projects in the area relating to SARAO or does the letter only apply to SKA?</p> <p>Lastly, in the response it is mentioned “based on the information provided it was determined that the project represents a low risk of interference to the SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 57.02 dBm/Hz”. Can you please explain what a compliance surplus of 57.02 dBm/Hz is and what is considered to be a high risk?</p> <p>Apologies for the questions!</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)</p>
<p>22 March 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Owner of Remainder of Farm No. 149 (Farm Goodhope) (Richard Vimpany)</p>	<p>“Good evening Shaun</p> <p>I wish to confirm that I met with Steve Stead yesterday and we travelled around the affected portion of our farm, Good Hope.</p> <p>I wish to thank Steve for taking the time to visit and engage with me on this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our discussion was incitefull and I’m grateful for the opportunity to participate. • Whilst you await Steve’s report, I would like to 	<p>Responded via Email on Tuesday, 22 March 2022 at 22:20</p> <p>“Steve,</p> <p>Thank you so much for engaging with Richard and your obvious professionalism, it is very much appreciated.</p> <p>Richard,</p> <p>It is very kind of you to keep us informed, thank you. Your continued objection is noted and respected. We too look forward to the results of the investigations and seeing how we can address your principal concerns.</p>

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	<p>comment specifically on the proximity of the proposed Phase 3 to our boundary fence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidently, the solar development is intended to extend to within 50 metres of the boundary fence, with solar panels towering some 3,3 metres high. • The impact of a 3,3m high wall of black, hot, reflective solar panels a mere 50m from our property is alarming to say the least. If this doesn't repel wild game and livestock, thereby affecting their utilisation of all available grazing pasture, then nothing will. • Whilst I await the subsequent investigations by the other appointed experts, I can confirm that we will continue to object to the proposed development in respect of the visual impact as well as the close proximity to our boundary. • The current Phase 3 proposal in its present format, represents an obvious and unacceptable WIN/LOSE senario for us, in every respect. <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Richard Vimpany <i>(on behalf of Neville R. Vimpany)</i></p>	<p>Thank you and keep strong.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Shaun MacGregor"</p>
<p>22 March 2022 Email</p>	<p>"Goeie Dag Hoop als gaan goed?"</p>	<p>Responded via Email on Saturday, 26 March 2022 at 11:30: "Goeie môre Manny,</p>

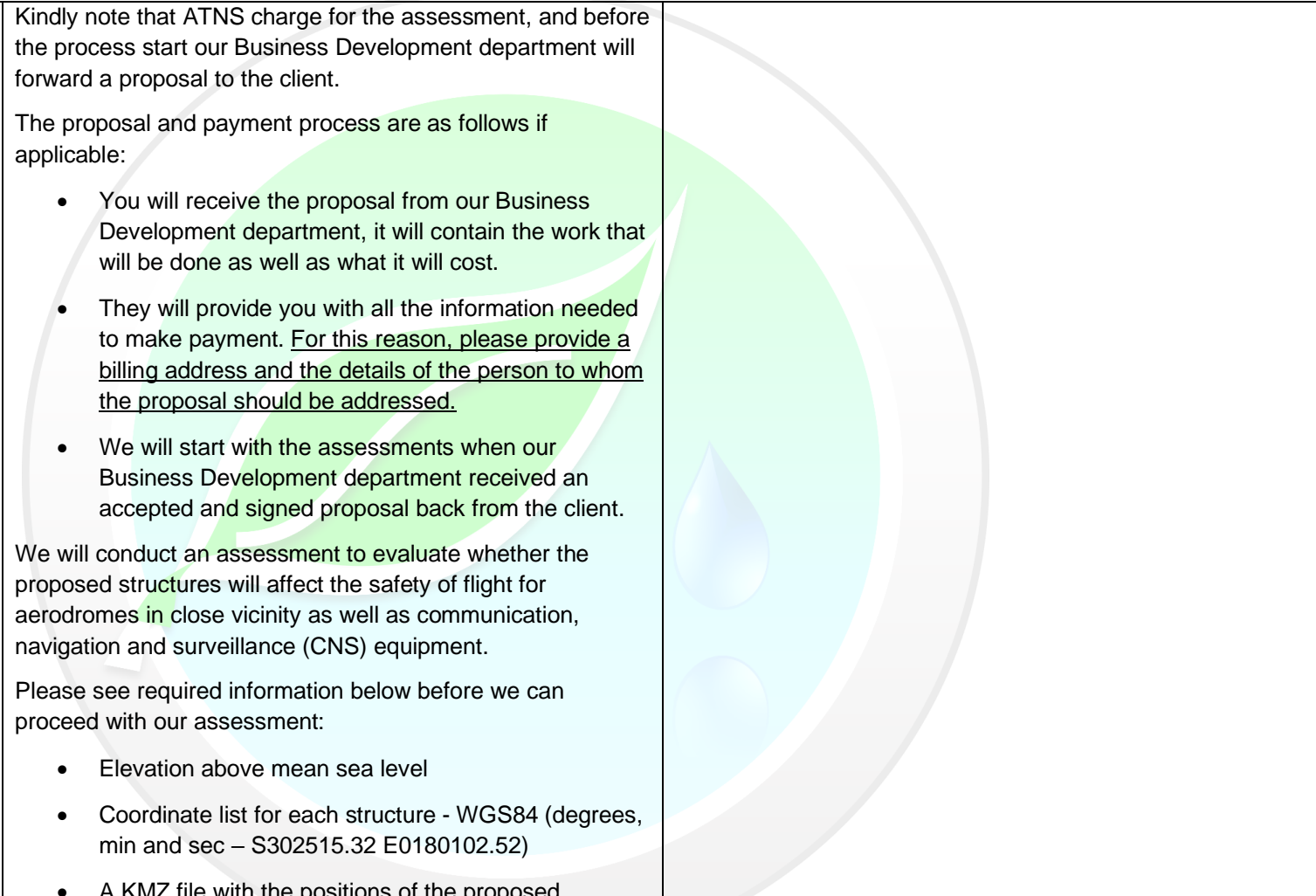
<p>Owner of Portion 2 & 5 Taaibosch Fontein No. 41 Farm: Skilpadskuil (Manual (Manny) Orfao)</p>	<p>Vind asb aangeheg fase 2 en fase 3 se kommentaar. Groete Manuel Orfao.”</p> <p>(Comments attached as Annexure E and I)</p> <p><u>Translation of comments from Afrikaans to English:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Safety of the residents and visitors. 2) Theft and burglary due to the development. 3) View impairment – The area designated for the solar panels are visible from Skilpadskuil, which means that the view will no longer be a nature scenery. 4) Land/Farm Value – The value of the land/farm will most likely decrease due to the development, which may have an effect on future buyers (including farmers – looking to buy the land). 5) Road conditions – The condition of the roads will most likely deteriorate as a result of the heavy vehicles using the roads. 6) Risk of veld fires caused by workers during the construction of the plant. 7) Risk of solar panels being damaged during the hunting season (1/3 of Skilpadskuil borders the Phase 2 & Phase 3 development). 	<p>Sien asb aangeheg die reaksies op die kommentaar in die BID wat jy ingedien het.</p> <p>Baie dankie vir jou deelname in hierdie proses.</p> <p>Jou kommentaar is geregistreer en is nou deel van ons Omgewingsimpakstudie.</p> <p>Kontak ons gerus as jy enige verdere vrae of bekommernisse het.</p> <p>Vriendelike groete, Anika Steynberg</p> <p>(Response attached as Annexure E and I)</p>
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<p>12 April 2022</p> <p>Post</p> <p>Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works (V. Mhlauli)</p>	<p>No objections. (Annexure I)</p>	
<p>10 May 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Equispectives Research and Consulting Services (Dr Ilse Aucamp)</p>	<p>“Hallo Steve,</p> <p>The NE farm receptor is Corneulis Oosthuizen 061 271 0268 or cmo.karoo@gmail.com. His wife is Louisa louisa.oosthuizen25@gmail.com or 074 114 3950. They stay on the farm Leuwe Fontein. They are Willem Retief’s neighbours. If you need to contact them WhatsApp is best, as the signal on the farm is iffy. Louisa is more responsive on e-mail than Corneulis. They don’t seem to have issues about the visual impact, as they think it won’t affect them. We did show them on Google Earth, but they seem to think that they won’t see it, and if they see it, it won’t be an issue.</p> <p>KInd regards</p> <p>Ilse”</p>	<p>Response from Stephen Stead (Visual Specialist) on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 at 20:34:</p> <p>“Hi Ilse,</p> <p>I had this locality down as low intensity so this is good as the response confirms the rating. Thanks.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Steve”</p> <p>Stephen Stead</p> <p>Visual Resource Management Africa Cell: +27(83) 560 9911</p> <p>Email: steve@vrma.co.za www.vrma.co.za</p>
<p>08 June 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>juwi Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd (Karen Low)</p>	<p>“Thank you Shaun for contacting me. I would like to register for the De Aar Phase 3 Solar PV (details provided in the attached BID). Please can you also provide the shapefile of the PV03 project site and grid connection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact details (email, cell phone): please find my 	<p>Responded via Email on Wednesday, 08 June 2022 at 13:36</p> <p>“Good afternoon Karen,</p> <p>I was the consultant who administered the application for PV02 (now referred to as Phase 1). You are correct that for some reason the project is not reflected on the DFFE Renewable Energy Database, despite us providing the Department a full</p>

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	<p>contact details below in the email signature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address (postal and physical): please find my contact details below in the email signature • Disclosure of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which you may have in the approval or refusal of the application: I have no direct business, financial, personal or other interest in the approval or refusal of the application. <p>The Phase 3 BID refers to the PV02 project (14/12/16/3/3/2/99) this project is not reflected in the DEA Renewable Energy database. Can I ask why it is not included in the database? Furthermore, are you able to provide a shapefile of the project site and grid connection for PV02.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Karen Low”</p>	<p>set of shapefiles (including all sensitivity data) for the project. Additionally, the adjacent approved SCATEC project has a footprint which erroneously extends onto the Phase 1 development area, which we requested SCATEC and associated consultants to rectify with the Department, but has never happened.</p> <p>Please find attached a .kmz file for the approved sub-station footprint, from which a loop-in, loop-out connection to the 400KV Eskom powerlines will take place. As requested I have also provided the .kmz for the proposed Phase 2 development footprint and proposed connecting (Phases 1, 2 & 3) overhead powerline.</p> <p>Please note that we are due to submit a Part 2 amendment for Phase 1, with an associated shift in position, and enlargement, of the main MTS sub-station as well as an additional 132KV switching yard, which will facilitate additional capacity to be fed into the 400KV Eskom powerlines in the future. We will include your details onto the I&AP register, to ensure you obtain the report and relevant information.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact us with any other queries.</p> <p>Kind regards, Justin Bowers”</p>
Draft Scoping Report		
<p>20 June 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Obstacle Administrator COO</p>	<p>“Good day Hlengile,</p> <p><u>RE: Proposed Solar PV Facility</u></p> <p>This is to acknowledge that ATNS has received your query.</p>	<p>Automated email.</p>

<p>Air Traffic Services (Yanga Nofuma)</p>	<p>Kindly note that ATNS charge for the assessment, and before the process start our Business Development department will forward a proposal to the client.</p> <p>The proposal and payment process are as follows if applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You will receive the proposal from our Business Development department, it will contain the work that will be done as well as what it will cost. They will provide you with all the information needed to make payment. <u>For this reason, please provide a billing address and the details of the person to whom the proposal should be addressed.</u> We will start with the assessments when our Business Development department received an accepted and signed proposal back from the client. <p>We will conduct an assessment to evaluate whether the proposed structures will affect the safety of flight for aerodromes in close vicinity as well as communication, navigation and surveillance (CNS) equipment.</p> <p>Please see required information below before we can proceed with our assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation above mean sea level Coordinate list for each structure - WGS84 (degrees, min and sec – S302515.32 E0180102.52) A KMZ file with the positions of the proposed 	
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	<p>structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We also require the dimensions/specs of the structures.• Height to the top of structure• A Glint and Glare assessment report.• If there will be power lines erected, and/or a substation the position and heights for each structure (Pole/substation) must be provided. <p><u>This whole process can take up to 90 working days' minimum that will commence after the proposal is accepted, signed and received by our Business Development department.</u></p> <p>Please note that ATNS also liaise with the South Africa Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) and will provide the client with the conditional/final approval from the SACAA.</p> <p>The client will have to liaise with SACAA to finalise the “As build” and for any queries with the lighting.</p> <p>Regards, Yanga Nofuma”</p>	
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Public Participation Report: Development of a 400 MW Solar PV Facility and associated infrastructure on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover

<p>06 July 2022</p> <p>Email with attachment</p> <p>(Comments on DSR - 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167)</p> <p>DFFE: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Priority Infrastructure Developments (Lydia Kutu)</p>	<p>“Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards, Lydia Kutu”</p> <p><u>Extract of comments (Original comments attached as Annexure E and I):</u></p> <p>(a) Application form</p> <p>i. The reason for this Department being the competent authority in terms of S24C of NEMA (Refer to Section 1 of the application form), must be expanded to include the agreement dated 09 May 2022.</p>	<p>Responded via letter dated 15 July 2022 (Annexure E and I).</p> <p><u>Extract of responses (Original response letter attached as Annexure E and I):</u></p> <p>Section 1 of the Application form does include the following reference to the Agreement, “Refer to Section 24C (3) Agreement from the Minister to DENC in the Northern Cape dated 05th May 2022 (APPENDIX 14)”. The date has been corrected to reflect “09th May”.</p> <p>A summary of the Agreement will be included in Section 1.</p>
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	<p>ii. Please ensure that the relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The applicant/EAP must certain which activities are triggered and avoid the use of words such as “may”. You are required to provide thresholds for each activity included.</p>	<p>The Application Form has been revised as follows and will be resubmitted.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Changed the project title to include reference to the on-site substation and distribution line by adding the words “and associated infrastructure” as well the additional properties affected by the linear infrastructure by adding the words “and other properties”. - “The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility <u>and associated infrastructure</u> (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, <u>and other properties</u> between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.” on page 1. 7. Corrected the date from the “05th” to the “09th” in Section 1 to “Refer to Section 24C (3) Agreement from the Minister to DENC in the Northern Cape dated <u>09th</u> May 2022 (APPENDIX 14)” on page 3. 8. Updated the PROJECT DESCRIPTION from page 7 to make it more accurate. 9. Updated the descriptions for the listed activities in Section 7. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR, by replacing the word “may” with “will” and including thresholds for each activity. 10. Updated Appendix 3 relating to land ownership. 11. Updated 6. SITE DESCRIPTION and Appendix 6 relating to the properties affected by the linear infrastructure.
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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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	<p>Please consider the applicability of phased listed activities since this is a phased development.</p>	<p>Kindly be advised that while this development has been referred to as Phase 3, there will be activities that are not phased, particularly, for example, if they have been authorised in the previous two phases.</p> <p>Nonetheless, a review of the phased listed activities revealed that none are applicable to this project as applicable listed activities are either included in this application or the thresholds prescribed in other potential listed activities read with the phased activities, are not exceeded when all three developments are combined (Appendix A).</p>
	<p>If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the FSR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</p>	<p>The activities applied for in the application do not differ from those mentioned in the FSR. However, the Application Form has been amended (see above) and will be resubmitted.</p>

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	<p>Please include a column on the table in Appendix 3: List of Landowners, which references the included landowner consent letters. The list of landowners should be specific to the non-linear grid infrastructure. The column should include:</p>	<p>The official Application Form reads, “<i>In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of those landowners with their contact details as Error! Reference source not found.</i>” There is only one landowner for the non-linear grid infrastructure, and his contact details are on page 5 of the Application Form. Appendix 3 contains his Letter of Consent – there is no point in creating a table with a column entitled “landowner consent included” when Appendix 3 already contains the Letter of Consent.</p> <p>We have added a table as requested to Appendix 3 including the landowner (Transnet) of the railway line property that will be intersected by the linear infrastructure, specifically the distribution line.</p>
	<p>(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps</p> <p>i. Please provide a separate appendix which includes all the maps contained in the scoping report.</p>	<p>An Appendix containing the Locality Map (Appendix A Site Plan) already exists. Any other Maps will be added to the same Appendix.</p>
	<p>ii. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development; • The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map; • All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); • The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; • Buffer areas; and • All “no-go” areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development; • The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map; - We shall produce a second locality map that includes the footprints for phases 1 and 2 as well their respective substations and transmission lines, the eskom grid infrastructure and a sensitivity layer. • All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); The first locality map will be revised to include existing boreholes and roads.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; - The locality map (Appendix A) is already overlain with a sensitivity map that includes the location of sensitive environmental features. • Buffer areas; and • All “no-go” areas – A pre-liminary no-go area, specifically a watercourse that bisects the study area, was identified using the results of the specialist assessments from Phase 1 and included in the locality Map (Appendix A). Additional buffer and no-go areas cannot be realistically depicted at this stage of the application and until the specialists have submitted their findings.
	<p>iii. The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p>	<p>The locality map (Appendix A) is already overlain with a sensitivity map.</p> <p>A third map will be produced that overlays a sensitivity layer, other solar developments within a 30 km radius and existing grid infrastructure.</p>
	<p>iv. Google maps will not be accepted.</p>	<p>Locality and sensitivity maps are produced by a GIS specialist using a programme or software that is more advanced than Google maps. However, we shall continue to use Google earth images to visually illustrate any written concepts explained in our reports.</p>
	<p>(c) Assessment of Alternatives: i. Please ensure that the final Scoping Report adequately</p>	<p>There are no alternatives other than the preferred alternative site and no-go option. The preferred alternative site and no-go option were assessed and evaluated – refer to the 201-page</p>

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	<p>assess, evaluate and address alternatives. Please note, through the description and assessment of alternatives in the scoping report, the decision maker must be in a position to follow the argument as to which alternatives will be further evaluated in the EIA phase and which alternatives will be scoped out of the process. Please be specific and straight to the point when presenting information. Please ensure that a description of each of the preferred alternative type and a detailed motivation on why it is preferred is provided. This information should also form part of the Plan of Study for EIA.</p>	<p>assessment of alternatives in Appendix D. An argument/motivation for evaluating the preferred alternative and “scoping out” the no-go option during the EIA is provided in the relevant sections of the SR, specifically the site selection matrix, a concluding statement and an impact statement, which ends with a detailed description motivating why the preferred site is preferred over the no-go option (see Section G: Investigation of Alternatives; Site Selection Matrix, Concluding Statement, and Impact Statement).</p>
	<p>ii. Please ensure that the identified alternatives for the proposed activity are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 (1) (c) (d) and 2 (h) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 (2)(x)(xi).</p>	<p>A written 7-page investigation is provided under “A motivation for not considering Alternatives” (other than the preferred site and no-go option) in Section G: Investigation of Alternatives of the SR.</p>
	<p>iii. Further note that the final Scoping Report must comply with Appendix 2, Regulation 2 (1) which states that “A scoping report must contain the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the process, informing all preferred alternatives”. The Regulations specifically requires that a preferred alternative be identified during the final Scoping Report.</p>	<p>The process for informing all preferred alternatives is explained in Section G: Investigation of Alternatives, including the subsections, entitled “Types of Alternatives” and “Identification of Alternatives”. A preferred alternative site has been identified – see above replies.</p>

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

	<p>(d) Public Participation Process</p> <p>i. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the FSR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the FSR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p>	<p>All issues raised and comments received shall be adequately addressed in the FSR by copying the issues and/or comments into the "Comment and Response Report", providing copies of the original comments and amending the draft Scoping Report where applicable. The Draft Scoping Report was distributed by email. A table summarizing the outcomes of the follow up action to verify receipt of the draft report for comment shall be provided in the PPP Report (Appendix C).</p>
	<p>ii. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format, which includes the date when the comments were received. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.</p>	<p>The Comment and Response Report shall be provided as a separate document in an Annexure of the PPP Report (Appendix C of the FSR). The C&R Report will incorporate all historical comments, starting from the inception of the PPP, in a table format. The table of comments and responses shall include the dates when the comments were received, and responses given. Comments shall not be summarised. Adequate responses shall be provided.</p>

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	<p>iii. The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities.</p>	<p>Evidence of notification and invitation to comment, e.g., screenshot of the email distribution, shall be provided in an Annexure of the PPP Report (in Appendix C of the FSR). A Register of all registered I&APs, including the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities, that were included in the PPP process, e.g., invited to comment on the DSR, shall also be provided in the PPP Report.</p>
	<p>(e) Specialist Assessments</p> <p>i. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of the proposed grid and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.</p>	<p>This requirement has been forwarded to the team of specialists for their attention via email on Thursday 07th July 2022. The locations of the proposed grid and associated infrastructures, specifically the Solar PV facility, on-site substation, and distribution line were provided to the specialists. However, logically, the final locations may not be reflected in their final reports as footprints may need to be shifted out of no-go areas (but still remain within the study area) that have been demarcated by other specialists.</p>
	<p>ii. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.</p> <p>iii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with</p>	<p>This requirement has been forwarded to the team of specialists for their attention via email on Thursday 07th July 2022. Some studies, such as heritage, palaeontology, socio-economic, traffic, etc. are not dependent on season. However, those studies that are, such as the avian impact assessment are still underway to record observations across different seasons.</p> <p>We in our capacity as the EAP will investigate and motivate a preferred recommendation in those instances where different</p>

	defendable reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.	specialists provide contradicting recommendations.
	iv. It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.	The Protocols were referred to in the relevant specialists’ Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are included with the Specialists’ Plans of Study in Appendix E of the FSR.
	<p>(f) Cumulative Assessment</p> <p>Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</p>	<p>Section H: “A Plan of Study” in the FSR will be updated to include these requirements contained in (f) Cumulative Assessment.</p> <p>An entirely separate section called “Cumulative Assessment” shall be created in the EIA Report. It shall be inserted after the existing Impact Assessment section. This section will include a description of similar developments (Solar PV) within 30 km (and illustrated on a map). After this sub-section, there will be other introductory sub-sections that summarises or lists the identified cumulative impacts, as well as a detailed but brief description of the process for taking the specialist’s mitigations into consideration.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land. 	<p>The specialists were requested to assess cumulative impacts relating to their environmental themes. Having said that, not all themes, such as Heritage and Paleontological themes are affected by cumulative impacts from neighbouring facilities as their impacts are localized to the physical footprint.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the suite of identified cumulative impacts to be assessed shall be linked to/identified by each of the specialists. So, we will have sub-sections entitled, “Aquatic”, “Terrestrial Biodiversity”, “Geohydrology”, “Visual”, etc.</p> <p>The cumulative impacts shall, as far as is possible, be quantified.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. 	<p>The specialist’s recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions relating to cumulative impacts will be summarised within each of our corresponding sub-sections, e.g., Avian, Aquatic, Hydrology, etc. Applicable (not necessarily all) recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions will then be linked to our identified (chosen) cumulative impacts to be assessed and then considered in our assessment of impact significance through its contribution to extent, duration, magnitude etc.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. 	<p>The Cumulative Assessment Section of the EIA Report will end with a Conclusion that summarises the outcomes of assessing each identified cumulative impact. Each of these findings will be carried over into the relevant Q&A sections of the Need & Desirability Section.</p>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed 	<p>A cumulative impact environmental statement will be provided in the Conclusion of the Cumulative Assessment Section of the EIA Report.</p>
	<p>General</p> <p>When providing coordinates as part of the information submitted regarding the location of an activity as part of an application for environmental authorisation, such coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system as per regulation 5(6) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: “If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”</p>	<p>The Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system has been and will continue to be used.</p> <p>The DSR is currently subject to a 30-day comment period, which ends on Thursday 14th July 2022. DFFE’s comments including this response will be included in the FSR. We then plan to submit the FSR before the 25th July 2022, which is 44 days from the day the Application was received by DFFE (10th June 2022), taking into account the public holiday on the 16th June (Youth Day).</p>


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	<p>You are further reminded that the FSR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>The Scoping Report does comply with and follows the same sequence as the requirements contained in Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>	<p>We in our capacity as the EAP shall continually strive to meet the regulated timeframes.</p>
<p>11 July 2022 Email DFFE: Biodiversity Mainstreaming EIA (Tsholofelo Sekonko)</p>	<p>“Dear Sir/Madam DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the Draft Scoping Report for the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility Phase 3. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Ms Rabothata and myself (Both copied on this email). Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota Regards, Ms. Tsholofelo Sekonko”</p>	<p>Email responded to on Tuesday, 12 July 2022 at 13:02 “Hello Tsholofelo, Thank you for the below email. Yourself and Ms Rabothata have been added to the list of registered I&APs to receive all further reports. Yours sincerely, Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)”</p>


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<p>28 July 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>DFFE: Biodiversity Mainstreaming EIA (Tsholofelo Sekonko)</p>	<p>“Hi Shannon</p> <p>Could you kindly assist in responding to the following questions: 1. Do you have any alternatives you considered? 2.How many facilities does the applicant want to develop, because “the reports states that, the applicants intents on developing two more facilities Phase 2 and 3”. However, in the title it says only phase 3? 3. How really sensitive is the environment for that kind of the development?”</p>	<p>Responded via email on Thursday, 28 July 2022 at 14:47</p> <p>Good Afternoon Tsholofelo,</p> <p>Thank you for your below email. With regards to your queries below:</p> <p>How many facilities does the applicant want to develop, because “the reports states that, the applicants intents on developing two more facilities Phase 2 and 3”. However, in the title it says only phase 3?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three phases. • Phase 1 (a 300 MW solar PV facility) has already been authorised (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998 dated 16th April 2018). • The EIAs for Phases 2 (a 300 MW solar PV facility) and 3 (a 400 MW solar PV facility) are underway and both applications are currently in their Scoping Phase. • This application is for Phase 3 only. • All phases are linked in so far as they occur on properties owned by the same Landowner (Mr Willem Retief), they will be developed and operated by the same applicant (Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd), and they will all feed into a newly constructed 400/132 kV Main Transmission Substation on Phase 1 (the MTS will tie into the existing Hydra-Poseidon 400kV Line 2 using a Loop-In-Loop-Out (LILO) connection). Given the high cost of building a Main Transmission Substation for Eskom, all three solar facilities are
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		<p>required to make the project financially feasible.</p> <p>Do you have any alternatives you considered?</p> <p>Given the need to expand the generation capacity of an authorised solar facility (Phase 1) and make the overall project financially feasible, there were no feasible alternatives for Phase 3. We provide a motivation for not considering alternatives other than the preferred alternative and no-go option in the draft and final Scoping Report, including proof of written investigations that show alternatives were not feasible and/or reasonable. In summary our investigations revealed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative No. 1: Property (site) and Location (within the site) <p>The identification and assessment of alternative sites was limited by existing Eskom infrastructure and land ownership, to ensure consent of use for undeveloped agricultural land within the vicinity of the national grid (and Phase 1). Eskom Transmission’s Hydra-Poseidon 400 kV Line 1 and Hydra-Poseidon 400 kV Line 2 intersect Mr Willem Retief’s south-western most properties, east of the N10. It turns out, from the specialist assessments that were completed during the EIA for Phase 1, that most of the properties are environmentally sensitive, leaving only a few isolated pockets of land for further development, specifically the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C. For this this reason these two properties with expansive areas of low sensitivity were chosen for Phase 3. There would theoretically be enough space to consider two alternative locations within</p>
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		<p>both properties, however, the area is not homogenous. So, if a person carves out the ecologically sensitive areas that were identified by the specialist(s) during the EIA for Phase 1, it becomes clear that there is only space for one location, comprising two adjacent but non-contiguous areas, within the preferred site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative No. 2: Design and Layout <p>Soventix (Pty) Ltd.'s investigation determined that the optimal solar PV plant design for this site should include a single-axis tracker together with Bifacial Mono Perc solar panels, supported on piles rammed into the ground. The preferred layout will be the product of a holistic and multi-disciplinary investigation, involving various online spatial planning tools and the site-specific findings and recommendations of all the specialist assessments. The aim of the investigation is to identify and eliminate sensitive environmental attributes from the preferred location, and in so doing arrive at the preferred development footprint (or layout) – see answer to third question below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative No. 3: Type of Activity <p>No alternative activity exists within the South African context that is an ongoing energy crisis combined with political commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement. So, if South Africa is to transition into a low-carbon economy and climate resilient society, expansion of our energy generation capacity must comprise alternative renewable energy sources, such as solar.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative No. 4: Technology <p>Water resource constraints within the Nama-Karoo prompt the adoption of more freshwater-efficient technologies or decisions not to site Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) facilities. It is sufficient to surmise that a CSP using wet cooling technology would require significantly more water during operation for cooling and maintenance (washing mirrors) compared with a Solar PV facility, increasing the potential for depleting limited groundwater resources within the region. Furthermore, the proposed development of a 400 MW Solar PV facility (Phase 3) is effectively the expansion of an already authorised 300 MW Solar PV facility in the same area (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998, dated 16th April 2018).</p> <p>How really sensitive is the environment for that kind of the development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area is not in a CBA, but it is located in an ESA and we suspect principally because it was also identified as a Strategic Water Source Area. In other words, the Aquatic environment is sensitive but for abiotic rather than biotic reasons as the aquatic environment constitutes an ephemeral channel. In other words, we need to ensure that we protect the catchment's physical integrity so that it can continue to function properly, specifically its ability to regulate (retain and release) surface and groundwater. Fortunately, given the modular nature of a solar PV facility it is possible to reshape and fragment it. So, it is our intention to stay outside the ephemeral channels entirely (including a 20 m ecological buffer) by developing the facility in 4 separate, but connected, PV Blocks within the
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		<p>terrestrial pockets. This way the ecological integrity and continuity of the aquatic ecosystem within the project area should remain intact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary results from the terrestrial biodiversity assessment did identify some sensitive habitats relating to the abovementioned aquatic system and pockets of raised relief. However, the pockets of raised relief are located on the periphery of the development, so we will be able to exclude them from the development footprint and actually incorporate them into some very effective 'visual and massing' buffers to reduce the visual impact on neighbouring farmers.• The site is located within an Important Bird Area (IBA) called Platberg-Karoo Conservancy (unprotected), and there are some SCC like the Ludwig's Bustard. However, research and preliminary investigations cannot definitively conclude that the solar PV facility will be detrimental to the local population of the Ludwig's Bustard, for example. Solar PV panels do not pose the same threat as the moving blades of a wind turbine, and there are no major water bodies within proximity to the development, so the arrays should be outside any water bird flight paths. The 132 kV distribution line from Phase 3 to Eskom's MTS does pose a threat for bird collisions and will be mitigated, using markers (bird flight diverters).• Furthermore, it is not the intention of the applicant to clear the entire site. In other words, the natural veld will be retained beneath the solar arrays. We are proposing an Agrivoltaic system that combines agriculture, specifically
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		<p>good ecological management (grazing) practices, with green energy generation, simultaneously supports the agricultural and energy industries. Furthermore, diversification by changing the current land-use from Agriculture to an 'Agrivoltaic' system is potentially a powerful climate resilient tool, involving both climate change mitigation and adaption measures, compared with the increased pressures of extensive grazing on a terrestrial ecosystem under more frequent and intense drought periods. The success of the proposed 'Agrivoltaic' system in building climate change resilience will be further facilitated by proposed mitigations to restore existing degradation (bare patches) from extensive livestock production or other drivers thereby ensuring adequate vegetation cover necessary for the maintenance of ecosystem services.</p> <p>Hope this clarifies your questions. Please feel free to contact me should you require further clarity.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)"</p>
<p>04 August 2022 Email DFFE: Biodiversity Mainstreaming EIA (Mmatlala Rabothata)</p>	<p>"Dear Ms. Farnsworth, Please receive the attached comments from Directorate :Biodiversity Conservation for your attention and implementation. Trust that you find all in order. Regards</p>	<p>Responded via Email on Thursday, 04 August 2022 10:35</p> <p>"Good Morning Ms Rabothata,</p> <p>Thank you for the below comments. They have been included into the comments and response report which will form part of the Draft EIA report which will further be circulated to the</p>

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	<p>Ms Mmatlala Rabothata”</p> <p>(Original comments attached as Annexure I):</p>	<p>Directorate :Biodiversity Conservation once available for public comment.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)”</p>
<p>02 September 2022</p> <p>Email with attachment (DFFE FSR acceptance 14-12-16-3-3-2-2167)</p> <p>DFFE: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Priority Infrastructure Developments (Lydia Kutu)</p> <p>“Acceptance of the Scoping Report ...”</p>	<p>“Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Lydia Kutu”</p> <p>(Original comments attached as Annexure I)</p>	<p>See responses to each comment below.</p>
	<p><u>In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):</u></p> <p>(a) Listed Activities</p> <p>i. The EAP is urged to revisit the applicable listed activities. The Department reiterates to ensure that all the relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked</p>	<p>The listed activities were revisited and linked to development activities in the project description.</p> <p>Listed Activity 12 of LN1 has been added to the Application Form for:</p> <p><i>“Five new linear infrastructure crossings including road crossings, underground cables and/or underground water pipelines between the four solar PV Blocks will have a combined physical footprint of approximately 25 258 square</i></p>

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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	<p>to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The application form indicates that “Existing dirt roads in and within 32 m of a watercourse will be expanded by more than 100 square metres”. You are required to consider the applicability of the following listed activities, inter-alia, Listing Notice 1, Activity 12, Listing Notice 1, Activity 24, and Listing Notice 1, Activity 56.</p>	<p><i>metres within 32 m of the ephemeral drainage line.</i></p> <p><i>The 132kv distribution line, including an access/service road within the 22 m-wide servitude, will have a combined physical footprint of approximately 53 482 square metres within 32 m of the affected watercourses.”</i></p> <p>Listed Activity 24 of LN1 has been added to the Application Form for:</p> <p><i>“An approximately 3 km long and 11 m wide (allowing 8 m for the roadbed preparation, and up to 3 m for the side/cut-off drain) access road will be constructed between Transnet’s service road and the Dx in PV Block No. 4 for unrestricted Eskom access to the Switching station (Dx) without traversing the fenced solar PV facility development footprint.”</i></p> <p>Listed Activity 56 of LN1 is not applicable as there is no existing reserve and no existing road wider than 8 m on the development footprint.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>ii. Please ensure that the applicable listed activities must be final and confirmed during the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment phase.</p>	<p>The listed activities will be finalized and confirmed during the EIA phase.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iii. When listing a listed activity, you are required to be specific on the sub-listing. The threshold of the listed activities including sub-listing must be provided. The EIAR must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.</p>	<p>The listed activities in LN3 have been amended to reflect the threshold and particular specified geographical area only.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iv. Please ensure that you refrain from the use of the words</p>	<p>Words such as, are expected, potentially, will most likely, etc.</p>

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	<p>such as, are expected, potentially, will most likely, etc when describing the listed activities. Listed activities are not based on a precautionary approach. The EAP/Applicant must be certain why listed activities are being triggered to enable the competent authority to apply its mind to all the assessed listed activities during decision making. The description of the listed activities must be brief and straight to the point.</p>	<p>have been removed from the description of the listed activities and the listed activities have been made more concise, e.g., brief and straight to the point. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>v. Under section 5: Project description of the application form, the EAP must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</p>	<p>Technical details will be provided as per required table format in the Application Form. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>vi. Please refer to the table below that summarises all the issues raised above on how listed activities are applied for in the application form. An amended application form must be submitted in this regard.</p>	<p>An amended Application Form reflecting the above improvements will be submitted with the Draft EIA Report. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p><u>(b) Public Participation</u> i. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the relevant Provincial Departments, SANRAL, Local Municipalities, the District Municipalities, the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), SANParks, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department Transport and Public Works – Roads, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.</p>	<p>All comments received will be submitted to the Department in the EIA Report. The I&AP Register was updated to ensure it includes the full list of recommended stakeholders. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>

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	<p>ii. A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.</p>	<p>The Comments and Response Report meets these requirements and will be submitted with the Draft and Final EIA Reports.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iii. Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments (including all objections) received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR. Comments made by adjacent farm owners must be adequately responded to. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p>	<p>All comments, responses, and proof of attempts to obtain comments will be adequately addressed in the Final EIA Report (see PPP Report).</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iv. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>The Public Participation Process has been and will continue to be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(c) Alternatives</p> <p>The final SR indicates that “there are no alternatives other than the preferred alternative site and no-go option”. This is</p>	<p>A thorough motivation has been provided.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>

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	<p>noted, however, please ensure that through the motivation, the decision maker must be able to follow the argument as to which alternatives was scoped out of the process and why.</p>	
	<p>(d) <u>Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>(i) The EIAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities. Coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system.</p>	<p>Applicable coordinate points will be provided for the Solar PV Facility, Distribution Line and Substation, in the Draft and Final EIA Reports.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(ii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <p>a) The envisioned area for the solar facility and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.</p> <p>b) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, control room, and buildings, including accommodation etc.</p> <p>c) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes, the onsite substation and internal power lines.</p> <p>d) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure or power lines.</p>	<p>The Final layout maps for the Solar PV Facility, Distribution Line and Substation will be submitted with the Final EIA Reports.</p> <p>The layout maps will include the required information in (a) to (d).</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p>	<p>Environmental Sensitivity Maps will be provided for the Solar PV Facility, Distribution Line and Substation.</p>

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	<p>a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;</p> <p>b) Buffer areas; and</p> <p>c) All “no-go” areas.</p>	<p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(iv) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure</p>	<p>The layout maps will be overlaid with the sensitivity maps, and a separate cumulative map at an appropriate scale will be provided for other energy developments within a 30 km radius of the development footprint.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(e) Specialist Assessments</p> <p>(i) The final EIAR and all the attached specialist studies must indicate and adequately assess a consistent capacity.</p>	<p>The specialists have assessed a consistent capacity, but the capacity is irrelevant as the capacity to generate electricity may increase substantially due to rapid technological advancements in the generation capacity or efficiency of the solar modules without increasing the development footprint. DFFE should be more concerned about the specialists adequately assessing a consistent footprint.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following</p> <p>a) A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p>	<p>Adequate Terms of Reference were provided to all the identified specialists, including <i>inter alia</i> a description and location of the development footprint.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>

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	<p>b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.</p>	<p>All specialists were requested to identify any limitations in their reports. All studies were conducted in the right or acceptable season.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.</p> <p>d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.</p>	<p>Thank you for the heads up.</p> <p>Any exceptions to no-go areas or buffers, particularly relating to linear infrastructure crossings have been clearly indicated by the specialists in their reports and mitigations as well as our reporting.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>e) All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.</p>	<p>Specialist studies are final and do provide adequate mitigation measures. There are some post-construction monitoring requirements.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.</p>	<p>All mitigation measures are clearly indicated in their reports and our summary of their findings in the Draft and Final EIA Reports.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>g) Regarding cumulative impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. - A detailed process flow to indicate how the specialist's 	<p>A dedicated cumulative impact section addressing all bulleted requirements will be included in the Draft and Final EIA Reports.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>

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	<p>recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process. - The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 	
	<p>iii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice</p>	<p>There was a contradicting recommendation regarding an ecological buffer (20 m versus 50 m) around the central ephemeral drainage line that divides the Solar PV Facility into 4 separate PV Blocks. The 50 m buffer was chosen to ensure the ongoing ecological functioning and integrity of the system from both the aquatic and avian perspectives.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(f) General</p> <p>(i) The final EIAR must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions, please refer to Annexure 2 as an example.</p>	<p>Technical details will be provided in the prescribed table format in both the Draft and Final EIA Reports.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>(ii) The applicant's name reflected as Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd must be used throughout the reporting. No other applicant</p>	<p>Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd shall be used throughout the reporting.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>

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	names can be used interchangeably	
	(iii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road and associated infrastructure is to be located.	<p>Consent is provided by way of a signed Lease and Option Agreement, including the properties affected by the development footprint.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	(iv) A construction and operational phase EMPr that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR.	<p>A construction phase only EMPr will be submitted with the Draft and Final EIA Reports.</p> <p>Section 24E of NEMA requires that every EA must ensure that adequate provision is made for the ongoing management and monitoring of impacts of the activity on the environment throughout the life cycle of the activity. The life cycle of the activity is determined by the scope of the activity. If the activity requires EA for development only, the development phase is the scope of the activity. If the activity requires EA for development and operation, the development and operational phases make up the scope of the activity (Environmental Authorisation Validity Period Explanatory Document, 2018). Only when the activity includes such an operational component, the relevant Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment, the Environmental Authorisation (including any conditions thereto) and the EMPr can include aspects regarding the operation scope of the activity e.g., mitigation actions for the operational phase (Environmental Authorisation Validity Period Explanatory Document, 2018).</p> <p>None of the listed and/or specified activities that are triggered, and which require environmental authorisation, specifically include the term 'and related operation'. Consequently, the scope of the activities pertaining to this project does not have an operational (or decommissioning) component.</p>

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		Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)
08 September 2022 Email Regional General Manager: Arid Region: SANParks (Lucius Moolman)	“Hi Shannon We don't have a Park nearby De Aar and Hanover. Mokala is about 250km from Hanover and Augrabies is over 400km from the two mentioned towns. SANParks is definitely not an affected party in this application. Lucius Moolman”	Responded via email on Thursday 08 September at 09:01 Thank you for the quick response. Much appreciated. Yours sincerely, Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
07 September 2022 Email Park Manager: Mokala National Park: SANParks (Johan de Klerk)	“Dear Hlengile, The area between De Aar and Hanover is far outside the Mokala National Park and even further away from Augrabies. A development in that area will not affect Mokala or Augrabies. It also do not fall within the expansion footprint of Mokala NP. Kind regards Johan de Klerk”	Responded via email on Thursday 08 September at 09:15 Good morning Johan, Thank you very much for your email below, the email is noted with great thanks. Regards, Hlengile Mtsweni.
04 October 2022 Email Heritage Officer SAHRA (Natasha Higgitt)	Main comments as per Interim Comment dated 04 October 2022 (Annexure I): The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests the HIA be revised to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To clarify if the previously identified heritage resources have been included in the discussion of 	Email on Wednesday, 05 October 2022 14:19 to the HIA specialist: Good afternoon, Anton Please find attached SAHRA's comments regarding the Soventix Phase 3 HIA. Kindly revise the HIA report accordingly (see below). Please can the revision be completed within a week or so, so that I can include it with the distribution of our draft EIA report.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identified heritage resources; • A map of all heritage resources located within the development area, which must include previously identified heritage resources (this is not clear in the submitted HIA); • Clear descriptions of each site with clear significance ratings per site; • An assessment of the impact of the development on all of the identified heritage resources. <p>SAHRA will provide further comments upon receipt of a revised HIA and the Draft EIA report inclusive of all appendices.</p>	<p>Interim Comment:</p> <p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests the HIA be revised to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To clarify if the previously identified heritage resources have been included in the discussion of identified heritage resources; • A map of all heritage resources located within the development area, which must include previously identified heritage resources (this is not clear in the submitted HIA); • Clear descriptions of each site with clear significance ratings per site; • An assessment of the impact of the development on all of the identified heritage resources. <p>SAHRA will provide further comments upon receipt of a revised HIA and the Draft EIA report inclusive of all appendices.</p> <p>Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number” Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt, Tel: 021 462 4502, Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za, CaseID: 17965</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)</p>
<p>Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report</p>		

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<p>11 November 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Environmental Management</p> <p>Grid Planning: Land and Rights</p> <p>Eskom Transmission Division (John Geeringh)</p>	<p>Please send me a KMZ file of the proposed development area and grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes as well as a setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments.</p>	<p>Email on Friday, 11 November 2022 11:12 -</p> <p>Good Morning John,</p> <p>Thank you for your email below. As requested, please find attached:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kmz file of the proposed development area and grid connection - the Main Transmission Substation (MTS) and grid connection was authorised as part of the Phase 1 development (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998), and the scope of Phase 3 ends where the 132 kV distribution line feeds into the MTS. <p>For background information, all four 100 MW PV blocks will feed into an on-site substation. The on-site substation will be linked to the MTS on Phase 1 via a 132 kV distribution line. The distribution lines are approximately 20 m high, and the servitude width is approximately 22 m (11 m from the centre line). The planned 132 kV distribution line, including a service road within the 22 m-wide servitude, will intersect an existing Eskom distribution line (Bletterman/Taaibos 1, 132 kV Overhead Line).</p> <p>With regards to the Setbacks Document (Rev 2) – we included aspects into the EMPr which is Appendix F of the DEIA (under Planning and Design).</p> <p>With regards to the “Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes” is concerned, we will include this in the final EMPr to be submitted together with the final EIA.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>
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		Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
<p>18 November 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>Birds and Renewable Energy Manager</p> <p>BirdLife South Africa (Samantha Ralston)</p>	<p>Dear Hlengile</p> <p>I confirm receipt. It is unlike I will have the time to study the reports, but I trust you will have applied the appropriate guidelines, including SANBI's Species Assessment guidelines. If you have any specific question related to impacts on birds please feel free to reach out to us directly.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Sam</p>	<p>Email on 21 November 2022 at 11:11 -</p> <p>Good Morning Sam,</p> <p>Thank you for your below email.</p> <p>Please find attached the full Avifauna Study that was undertaken for the 400MW Solar PV facility and associated infrastructure (Phase 3). Pages 37 – 38 refers to SANBI species protocol guidelines (2020).</p> <p>Also, for your ease due to time constraints I have attached a summary of the Avifauna Study.</p> <p>Finally attached is the Terms of Reference for the appointed Avifauna specialist (pages 5 - 6 refer to guidelines to be included such as the <i>Best-Practice Guidelines for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in southern Africa</i>" (Jenkins <i>et al.</i>, 2017)).</p> <p>All suggested mitigation measures by the specialist have been included in the EMPr.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p> <p>Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)</p>
<p>30 November 2022</p> <p>Email</p> <p>South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) (Ramotholo Sefako)</p>	<p>Hi Hlengile</p> <p>I am sorry I should have replied and said that this particular development will have no impact on the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) near Sutherland. De Aar is over 400 km away from Sutherland, and therefore unlikely to have any significant impact on research observations done at SAAO,</p>	<p>Hlengile Mtsweni responded via telephonic phone call.</p>

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

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	<p>Sutherland.</p> <p>Just to note that the main activities that affect our observations are those that produce dust and/or require lighting at night.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Ramotholo</p>	
<p>09 December 2022</p> <p>Email with attachment (14-12-16-3-3-2-2167 _DEIA comments)</p> <p>DFFE: Integrated Environmental Authorisations Priority Infrastructure Developments (Lydia Kutu)</p> <p>“Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report...”</p>	<p>Good day.</p> <p>Please find herein the attached letter for the above mentioned.</p> <p>Please do not respond to this mailbox with any queries related to the decision been issued. All queries on the attached decision must be directed to official whose contact details is listed as enquiries.</p> <p>I hope you find all in order.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Lydia Kutu</p> <p>(Original comments attached as Annexure I)</p> <p>This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:</p>	<p>See responses to each comment below.</p>
	<p>1. <u>Listed Activities</u></p>	<p>This is not a phased development. Specialist input was used to</p>

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	<p>i. You are required to revisit Section 5: Project description of the application form. The technical details provided are noted, however, these must be combined. The technical details for the entire development must be put in one table that describes the entire development. This is not a phased development so the proposed development must be described in its entirety. Please use Annexure 1 below to complete the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</p>	<p>determine the final layout, specifically 4 separate but interconnected PV Blocks. The technical details for each of the 4 PV Blocks have been combined to represent the Solar PV Facility, as requested and the Application Form will be resubmitted with the Final EIA Report. Annexure 1 had already been used in the formulation of the original technical table as it was provided with the comments on the final Scoping Report (Letter of Acceptance).</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>ii. The listed activities to be applied for must be final. Listed activities must not be included based on precautionary scenarios or approaches.</p>	<p>The listed activities are now final and do not reflect a precautionary scenario or approach. Specifications cannot be provided until the detailed design stage of the project. Consequently, thresholds must be estimated using certain assumptions.</p> <p>For example, LA12 of LN1 is for <i>inter alia</i> “The 132kv distribution line, including an access/service road alongside and/or within the 22 m-wide servitude, will have a combined physical footprint of approximately 53 482 square metres within 32 m of the affected watercourses.”</p> <p>The servitude is 22 m wide.</p> <p>The length of the area is calculated as follows: The first watercourse crossing is 151 m wide, whereas the second watercourse south of the railway line is a braided channel, comprising 4 crossings (811 m, 574 m, 499 m and 76 m wide). Considering the Listed Activity refers to ‘within 32 m of a watercourse’ one needs to add 32 m onto either side of every crossing. So, the total length is $(151+64) + (811+64) +$</p>

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		<p>$(574+64) + (499+64) + (76+64) = 2\ 431\ m$</p> <p>The total footprint area within 32 m of all watercourses is therefore 22 m (wide) x 2 431 m (long) = 53 482 m².</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms.</p>	<p>Listed Activity 24 of LN1 was erroneously omitted from the Application Form. It has now been added to the Application Form for:</p> <p><i>“An approximately 3 km long and 11 m wide (allowing 8 m for the roadbed preparation, and up to 3 m for the side/cut-off drain) access road will be constructed between Transnet's service road and the Dx in PV Block No. 4 for unrestricted Eskom access to the Switching station (Dx) without traversing the fenced solar PV facility development footprint.”</i></p> <p>We have ensured that the listed activities applied for in the application form are now identical to those mentioned in the Final EIA Report. The application form will be resubmitted with the Final EIA Report.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iv. The final EIAR must also provide the technical details for the facility in table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.</p>	<p>The Draft EIA Report did provide the technical details for the facility in table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. The Final EIA Report will provide the same details.</p> <p>Do not get confused!... We have provided the technical details for each of the 4 PV Blocks separately, but we have also combined them to provide the details for the solar PV Facility as a whole.</p>

	<p>v. It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous activities listed in Listing Notice 3, particularly for activities impacting on areas in the Province's Conservation Plans. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department.</p>	<p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p> <p>The relevant authorities have been involved throughout this process (refer to the I&AP Register).</p> <p>Ecoleges did consult the SANBI BGIS website and contact the DENC (Northern Cape) regarding "the Province's Conservation Plans" or specifically the Northern Cape's CBA maps, 2016 (Northern Cape: Technical Report (2016) by Dr Stephen Holness & Enrico Oosthuysen) for consideration throughout the assessment process.</p> <p>Ecoleges also received comments on the Draft SR from the National Biodiversity Section.</p> <p>Neither ecoleges nor Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd shall be held responsible for a relevant authority's failure to get actively involved and provide comments (refer to the Comments and Response Report).</p> <p>DFFE is reminded of Regulation 3(4) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, "When a State department is requested to comment in terms of these Regulations, such State department must submit its comments in writing within 30 days from the date on which it was requested to submit comments and if such State department fails to submit comments within such 30 days, it will be regarded that such State department has no comments."</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>2. Public Participation Process</p> <p>i. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final</p>	<p>Any comments received from the said stakeholders will be submitted to the Department with the Final EIA Report, in both the original format and the Comment and Response Report.</p>

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	<p>EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the relevant Provincial Departments, SANRAL, Local Municipality, the District Municipality, Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), SANParks, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department Transport and Public Works — Roads, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.</p>	<p>All said stakeholders were included in the I&AP Register (refer to the I&AP Register) Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>ii. A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format. All comments from I&APs must be responded to adequately. A response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually. The dates in which comments were received must be recorded in the C&R, Your responses to the issues raised by the Department must be included in the comments and response (C&R) report, in table format.</p>	<p>All this has been complied with. This Comment and Response Report is evidence of that. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP).</p>
	<p>iii. The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA). The final EIAR must address all comments received on the SR and the draft EIAR, including this letter.</p>	<p>The Final EIA Report does comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the SR and the PoSEIA contained therein. The Final EIA Report also addresses all comments received on the SR and the Draft EIA Report (refer to Comment and Response Report). Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iv. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in</p>	<p>The Public Participation Process was conducted in terms of</p>

	<p>terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (refer to the PPP Report).</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>3. Cumulative Assessment</p> <p>Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. 	<p>A section dedicated to certain cumulative impacts, including where possible quantified impacts, has been included in the Draft and Final EIA Report.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. 	<p>A section dedicated to cumulative impacts, and fundamentally based on specialist input, has been included in the Draft and Final EIA Report.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. 	<p>The specialists believed the adoption of prescribed mitigations was sufficient to avoid or minimize on-site impacts as well as potentially significant cumulative impacts (see the cumulative impacts section of the Draft and Final EIAR). Consequently, the need and desirability of the proposed development was not negatively impacted by cumulative impacts significance ratings (see the need and desirability section of the Draft and Final EIAR).</p>

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		Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed or not 	<p>A cumulative impact environmental statement is included in the cumulative impacts section of the Draft and Final EIAR.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>4. Specialist Declaration of Interest</p> <p>i. Please ensure that a copy of the layout map must be submitted with the final report. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:</p> <p>(a) The location of the BESS (if applicable), PV facility and associated infrastructure;</p> <p>(b) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);</p> <p>(c) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;</p> <p>(d) Buffer areas; and</p> <p>(e) All “no-go” areas.</p> <p>(§ The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p>	<p>A copy of the final layout map has been submitted with the Final EIA Report.</p> <p>All biodiversity information was used in the finalization of the layout map.</p> <p>The various layout maps cumulatively indicate all the requirements from the PV facility and associated infrastructure to sensitive environmental features and neighboring renewable energy developments.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	ii. Google maps will not be accepted.	<p>Google maps were not used for the layout maps.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	iii. Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for	<p>Original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted are attached to the Draft and Final EIA Report.</p>

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	<p>each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).</p>	<p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>iv. Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative.</p>	<p>The specialist recommendations were instrumental in creating the preferred layout alternative and have been carried over into the Design and Layout Phase of the EMP to ensure they are taken into consideration by the engineers during the final design stage of the solar PV Facility.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>5. Undertaking of an Oath</p> <p>i. Please note that the final EIAR must have an undertaking under oath/affirmation by the EAP.</p>	<p>The final EIAR does have an undertaking under oath/confirmation by the EAP.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>ii. Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAR must include:</p> <p>"an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the correctness of the information provided in the reports; b) the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs; c) the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and d) any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments 	<p>An undertaking under oath as per Appendix 3 was performed by the Registered EAP, Ms Shannon Farnsworth, with a Commissioner of Oaths at the local Police Station.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>

	or inputs made by interested and affected parties”.	
	<p>6. <u>Details and Expertise of the EAP</u></p> <p>Please ensure that the Final EIAR includes the details and expertise of the EAP, including a curriculum vitae, to comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p>	<p>The Draft and Final EIA Report includes the details and expertise of the Registered EAP, Ms Shannon Farnsworth, including a copy of her curriculum vitae.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>7. <u>Environmental Management Programme</u></p> <p>i. It is drawn to your attention that for overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such activities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report. Please take note of Part B Section 2 of the Generic EMPR requirement which states that:</p> <p>“This section must be submitted to the CA together with the final BAR or EIAR. The information submitted to the CA will be incomplete should a signed copy of Part B: section 2 not be submitted. Once approved, this Section forms part of the EMPr for the development and is legally binding.”</p> <p>The generic EMPr submitted with the Draft EIAR was not signed. Please ensure that signed versions of the Generic EMPrs for the substation and powerline are submitted with the final EIAR.</p>	<p>The Generic EMPrs for the distribution line and substation were included in the Draft EIA Report.</p> <p>Signed copies of Part B Section 2 were submitted with the Draft EIA Report (inserted at the end of the Generic EMPrs). The same signed versions will be submitted with the Final EIAR.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>ii. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted must be</p>	<p>All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIA Report and the specialist studies have been carried over into the applicable EMPrs (for the Solar PV Facility, Distribution</p>

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	included in the final EIAR.	Line and Substation). Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)
	iii. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.	Specific environmental sensitivity maps were created for and included in each of the three EMPs relating to the Solar PV Facility, Distribution Line and Substation. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)
	iv. In addition to the above, the EMP must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	The EMP for the Solar PV Facility complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)
	8. General	
	i. When uploading reports via the online system, the appendices must correspond with the relevant reports and must be clearly labelled for easy reference. If, for example, Appendix 2: Background Information Document and Proof of Delivery, then Appendix 2 must be labelled as such and only contain the relevant reports/documents.	The appendices correspond with the relevant reports and are clearly labelled. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)
	ii. Please ensure that the applicant's name reflected as Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd., must be used throughout the reporting. No other applicant names can be used interchangeably.	Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd has been used throughout the reporting. Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)
	iii. The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road, wind turbines and associated infrastructure is to be located.	Landowner consent is provided by way of a signed Lease and Option Agreement. See the Second Addendum, which includes a property description on page 2 and an outline encompassing all leased properties (in Annexure A of the Agreement). The solar PV facility, substation and distribution line are all

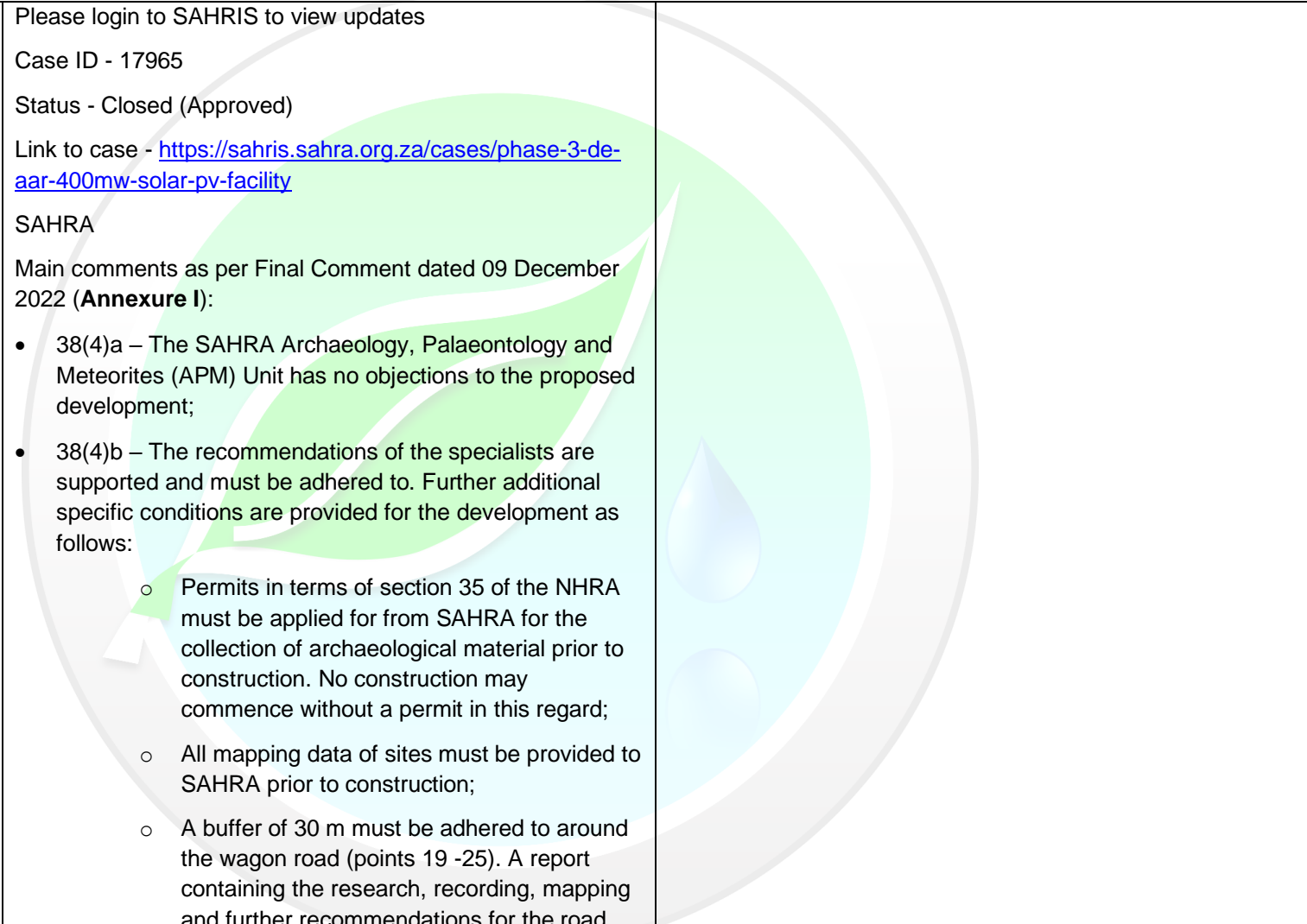
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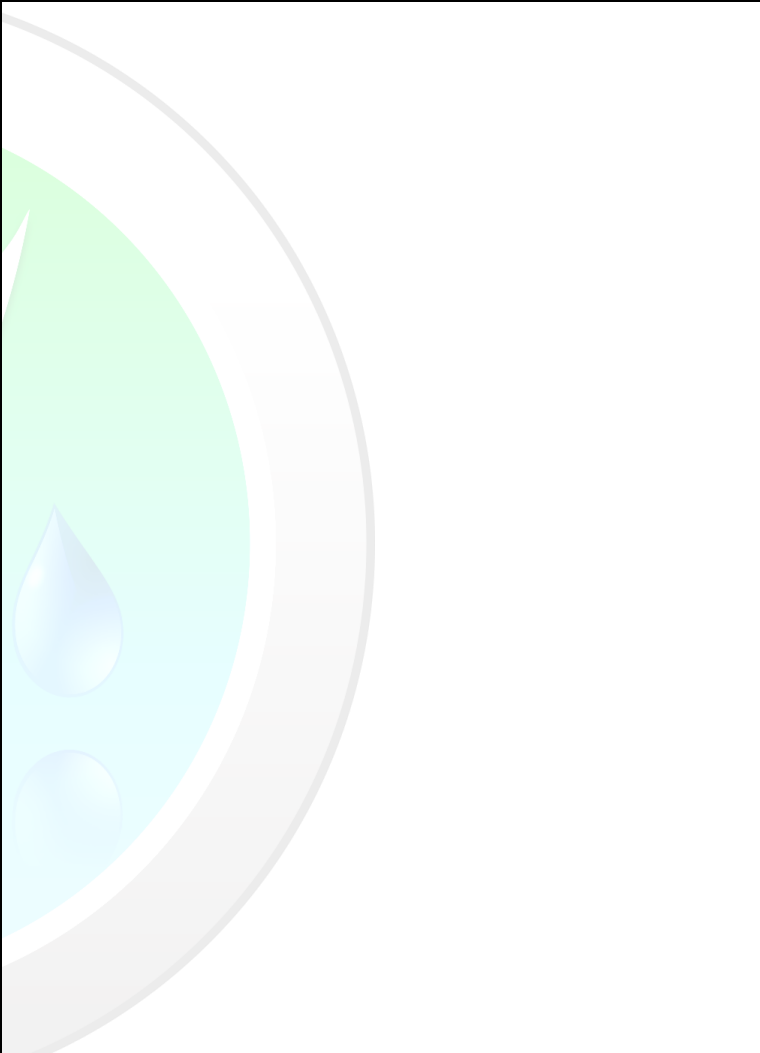
		<p>located within the outline encompassing all leased properties. The solar PV facility and substation are located on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C.</p> <p>Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C is not registered in the Deed Office, so there is no title deed number specifically holding Portion 3. Portion 3 therefore still forms part of the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C having title deed number T48840/2013.</p> <p>Eskom and Transnet servitudes will be impacted by the Distribution line. The applicant will need to apply for co-use of Eskom's 132 kV powerline servitude and Transnet's railway line servitude by submitting a formal application to each parastatal prior to the commencement of construction.</p> <p>DFFE is reminded of Regulation 39(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, "39(1) If the proponent is not the owner or person in control of the land on which the activity is to be undertaken, the proponent must, before applying for an environmental authorisation in respect of such activity, obtain the written consent of the landowner or person in control of the land to undertake such activity on that land. (2) Subregulation (1) does not apply in respect of - (a) linear activities;"</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>The EIAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities. Coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate</p>	<p>Appropriate co-ordinates are provided in the Draft and Final EIAR for the solar PV facility, substation, and distribution line.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>

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	system as specified in the 2014 NEMA Regulations, as amended.	
	Please also ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.	<p>The Final EIAR includes a required period of 10 years.</p> <p>Whilst it will be the holder's intention to commence with construction as soon as possible, the date of commencement and duration of construction will depend on several factors, including <i>inter alia</i> the EIA process (DFFE), WULA process (DWS), Eskom requirements, specifications, and processes, as well as the number of resources that are dedicated to the construction by the IPP. As such, the activity could be concluded between 20 and 60 months after the start of construction.</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
	<p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: "The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -</p> <p>(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."</p>	<p>The Final EIA Report will be uploaded and submitted within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report on 02/09/2022.</p> <p>The Final EIA Report inclusive of all specialist reports, and three EMPrs, was subjected to a public participation process of 30 days.</p> <p>The Final EIA Report incorporates all comments received, including from DFFE (see Comments and Response Report).</p> <p>Shaun MacGregor (Reg. EAP)</p>
09 December 2022 Email Heritage Officer	<p>Good day,</p> <p>The status of case "Phase 3 De Aar 400MW Solar PV facility" was updated.</p>	

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<p>SAHRA (Natasha Higgitt)</p>	<p>Please login to SAHRIS to view updates</p> <p>Case ID - 17965</p> <p>Status - Closed (Approved)</p> <p>Link to case - https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/phase-3-de-aar-400mw-solar-pv-facility</p> <p>SAHRA</p> <p>Main comments as per Final Comment dated 09 December 2022 (Annexure I):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development; • 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Permits in terms of section 35 of the NHRA must be applied for from SAHRA for the collection of archaeological material prior to construction. No construction may commence without a permit in this regard; ○ All mapping data of sites must be provided to SAHRA prior to construction; ○ A buffer of 30 m must be adhered to around the wagon road (points 19 -25). A report containing the research, recording, mapping and further recommendations for the road 	
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	<p>must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to construction;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; • 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/ Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule; • 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences; • 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above; 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;● The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes; <p>The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.</p>	
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Annexure I: Original Comments Received



NOTIFICATION & BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)



Applications for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Water Use Authorisation (WUA) for the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information for the proposed project and to provide for objections, comments, and contributions from stakeholders, with regards to potential environmental and water use impacts – which includes, but is not limited to, ecological, social, economic, physical, aesthetic, etc.

When an applicant proposes to undertake a Section 21 water use in terms of the National Water Act (NWA, Act 36 of 1998) or a Listed Activity in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) as amended, an application must be made for authorisation. The applications must be supported by a report, which has been compiled following an assessment process.

Ecoleges has been appointed, in its capacity as an independent Environmental Consultant, to manage the Public Participation Process (PPP) as part of both the Water Use Authorisation and Environmental Authorisation processes.

Water use authorisation is proposed in terms of the applicable General Authorisations, failing which a Water Use License application will need to be undertaken in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017.

The Environmental Authorisation is to be undertaken via a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S & EIA) process in accordance with Regulations 21 - 24 of the amended EIA Regulations, 2014 promulgated in terms of sections 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended.

The Public Participation Process for the Environmental Authorisation and Water Use Authorisation applications must be undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended, and Section 17 of the Water Use License Application (WULA) and Appeals Regulations, 2017 (GN No. R. 267 of 24th March 2017), respectively. Ecoleges has also taken the Public Participation 2017 Guideline Document (DEA, 2017) into consideration.

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BACKGROUND

In 2016 ecoleges undertook a S&EIA for the development of a 225 MW Solar PV facility between Hanover and De Aar in the Northern Cape. Three alternative footprints (PV01, PV02, PV03) were investigated during the assessment process. The central footprint (PV02) was identified as the preferred option because of its lower environmental impact and proximity to an existing 400kV Eskom powerline when compared with PV01 and PV03. The National Department of Environmental Affairs granted an environmental authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998) on 16th April 2018. The activity must commence on the PV02 footprint within a period of five years from the date of issue.

An amendment to increase the capacity (not the footprint) of the facility to 300 MW due to technological advancements in solar photovoltaic efficiency and electrical output was granted on 24th November 2020.

A second amendment was granted in 2021 for the inclusion of containerised lithium-ion battery Storage and dual-fuel backup generators with associated fuel storage.

The competent authority was the National Department of Environmental Affairs because the application was part of the REIPPP or RMIPPP BID rounds, which formed part of a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) as described in the National Development Plan, 2011. Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd was an unsuccessful bidder. However, the applicant has since partnered with another company, Solar Africa, with 1.5 GW in private renewable energy offtake agreements, making it economically feasible to develop two more 300 and 400 MW facilities (Phases 2 and 3, respectively).

Soventix will therefore apply for an environmental authorisation to develop an additional 300MW on the PV03 footprint (Phase 2) that was considered during the initial S&EIA. It is proposed to connect this second phase to the substation that forms part of the authorised facility on PV02.

Unlike footprints PV02 and PV03, Phase 3 was not assessed during the S&EIA for Phase 1. Phase 3 involves the development of a third 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C.

The two additional Solar PV facilities (Phase 2 and 3) will feed into the authorised sub-station on the PV02 footprint (Phase 1). Consequently, the expansion of the substation footprint will require a third (Part 2) amendment to the existing environmental authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Solar PV System

A single PV device is known as a cell. To boost the power output of PV cells, they are connected in chains to form larger units known as modules or panels. Each module is 2.2 by 1.1 m (or 2,42 m²) in size. Modules are connected to form arrays and mounted on to a rack that points the panels toward the sun. The results of the geotechnical assessment will determine whether the racks and panels are held in place by either a ballast or piled foundation. Two rows of twenty-three modules each will be attached to a steel and aluminium rack. Consequently, each rack would accommodate approximately 110 m² of panel. Solar arrays will be orientated in a northern direction and track the sun from east (55°) to west (-55°). The arrays shall be placed approximately 7.4 m apart. Several arrays are then connected to an inverter. The inverters

convert the voltage from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). Inverters at the end of panel mounting structures are cabled to field transformers. The field transformers then transfer and increase (step up) the voltage of the alternating-current circuit to Eskom's electrical grid via an onsite substation.

The size of the proposed development footprint for a 400 MW solar PV facility is approximately 600 ha (1.5 ha per MW). As far as possible, arrays will be arranged in four 100 MW blocks of approximately 150 ha each. There will be five inverters per MW (500 inverters per 100 MW block, or 2000 inverters for 400 MW). Twenty-five inverters are connected to a field transformer, so there will be twenty field transformers per 100MW (or 80 field transformers for 400 MW).

All four 100 MW blocks will feed into an on-site substation. This on-site substation will then be linked to the on-site substation on Phase 2 via overhead (approximately 20 m high) distribution lines (most likely to be a 33kV connection) along a 32 m wide servitude.

Operational Area

The operational area comprises a controlled access, single-storey building, unpaved parking, and a sewerage treatment plant. The building shall be constructed from brick with metal sheet roofing and include space for an office, ablutions (incl. change rooms), medical room, control room, kitchen, storeroom, and workshop.

Services (Water, Domestic Wastewater, Electricity and Waste)

There are several existing boreholes on site, which will be used to abstract groundwater for construction and operational phases. The abstracted water shall be stored in aboveground JoJo type storage tanks. The tanks shall be located near the single storey building in the operational area.

A maximum of 2 kL of domestic wastewater, including sewerage, shall be generated each day, and treated to special limits with a bio-box package plant.

Electricity during construction and operation will be obtained from Eskom via the existing supply to the site.

General waste will be disposed of at the De Aar licensed landfill site. Electrical waste will be either recycled or disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste landfill.

Roads

Existing roads will be upgraded, and new roads will be built, that is graded, shaped for runoff, and compacted to access the laydown area, construction camp, and components of the PV system, including the operational area, the on-site substation and to each field transformer. Passing lanes will be placed at strategic areas. Precast box culverts or pipes will also be required where the access roads pass through a drainage line. Some road crossings may need to be widened to accommodate large delivery trucks.

Two-track access roads (4.4 to 4.5 m wide) will be constructed between the parallel arrays, and a 4 to 5 m wide fire break road, comprising a jeep track with cleared vegetation, will also be created inside the perimeter fence.

Fencing

The facility will be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence or Clear View™ fencing, with controlled access using a security gate. Both areas (separated by a watercourse) will be fenced off within one perimeter fence.

Lighting

The facility will not be lit up at night. The fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness. The obvious areas that would have lights is the control and security office, as well as the on-site substation, which is a legal requirement.

Access

The main access is off the N10 between De Aar & Hanover, which enters the site from the west. The provincial unsurfaced road (Burgersville Road) and the existing farm access road will also be utilised.

Timing

The three phases will be built sequentially. There may be some overlap in that once civil works are complete the civils' team would move onto phase 2, etc. Even each 100MW block within each phase will be built sequentially, e.g., the first phase of 300MW would be built in 3 x 100MW blocks. This will limit the amount of people on site, as well as mitigate the need for massive amounts of equipment, storage etc.

Agricultural Activities

The current land use is sheep farming, which will continue within the solar PV facility to ensure minimal losses on agricultural potential of the land as well as control vegetation growth.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Water Uses

An application to register the Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development under the applicable General Authorisations will be submitted to the regional office of the Department of Water and Sanitation (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency), failing which an application for a Water Use License shall be submitted to the same Responsible Authority in terms of the WULA and Appeals Regulations, 2017. The Section 21 water uses associated with the proposed development are as follows:

Section 21(a)	taking water from a water resource
Section 21(b)	storing of water
Section 21(c)	impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse.
Section 21(g)	disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource
Section 21(i)	altering the bed, banks, course, or characteristics of a watercourse.

Listed Activities

An application for an EA will be submitted to the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended to undertake the following potential listed activities:

Listing Notice 1 (GG No. 40772, GN No. 327, 07 April 2017)	
Listed Activity 11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity -

	<p>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;</p> <p>excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is -</p> <p>(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>
<p>Listed Activity 19</p>	<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, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse; but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</p> <p>(a) will occur behind a development setback; (b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; (c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies; (d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or (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>Listed Activity 28</p>	<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 (ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial, or institutional purposes.</p>
<p>Listed Activity 48</p>	<p>The expansion of –</p> <p>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or (ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such expansion [or expansion and related operation] 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 expansion 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 expansion 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 expansion occurs within an urban area; or</p> <p>(ee) where such expansion occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 2 (GG No. 40772, GN No. 325, 07 April 2017)</p>	
Listed Activity 2	<p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs -</p> <p>(a) within an urban area; or</p> <p>(b) on existing infrastructure.</p>
Listed Activity 15	<p>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p>
<p>Listing Notice 3 (GG No. 40772, GN No. 324, 07 April 2017)</p>	
Listed Activity 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;</p> <p>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>g. Northern Cape</p> <p>i. In an estuary;</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas:</p>

	<p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; no (cc) World Heritage Sites; (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; (ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; as above (ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves; (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; (ii) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</p>
<p>Listed Activity 18</p>	<p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre. g. Northern Cape i. In an estuary; ii. Outside urban areas: (aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies; (bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; no (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; (dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans; (ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves; (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 reserve; (hh) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined; or (ii) Areas within a watercourse or wetland; or within 100 metres from the edge of a watercourse or wetland;</p>

PURPOSE OF THE S&EIA

The overall objective is to undertake and complete a robust and defensible assessment process that will serve to inform the responsible authority's (Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency (Upington Lower Orange WMA) and competent authority's (Northern

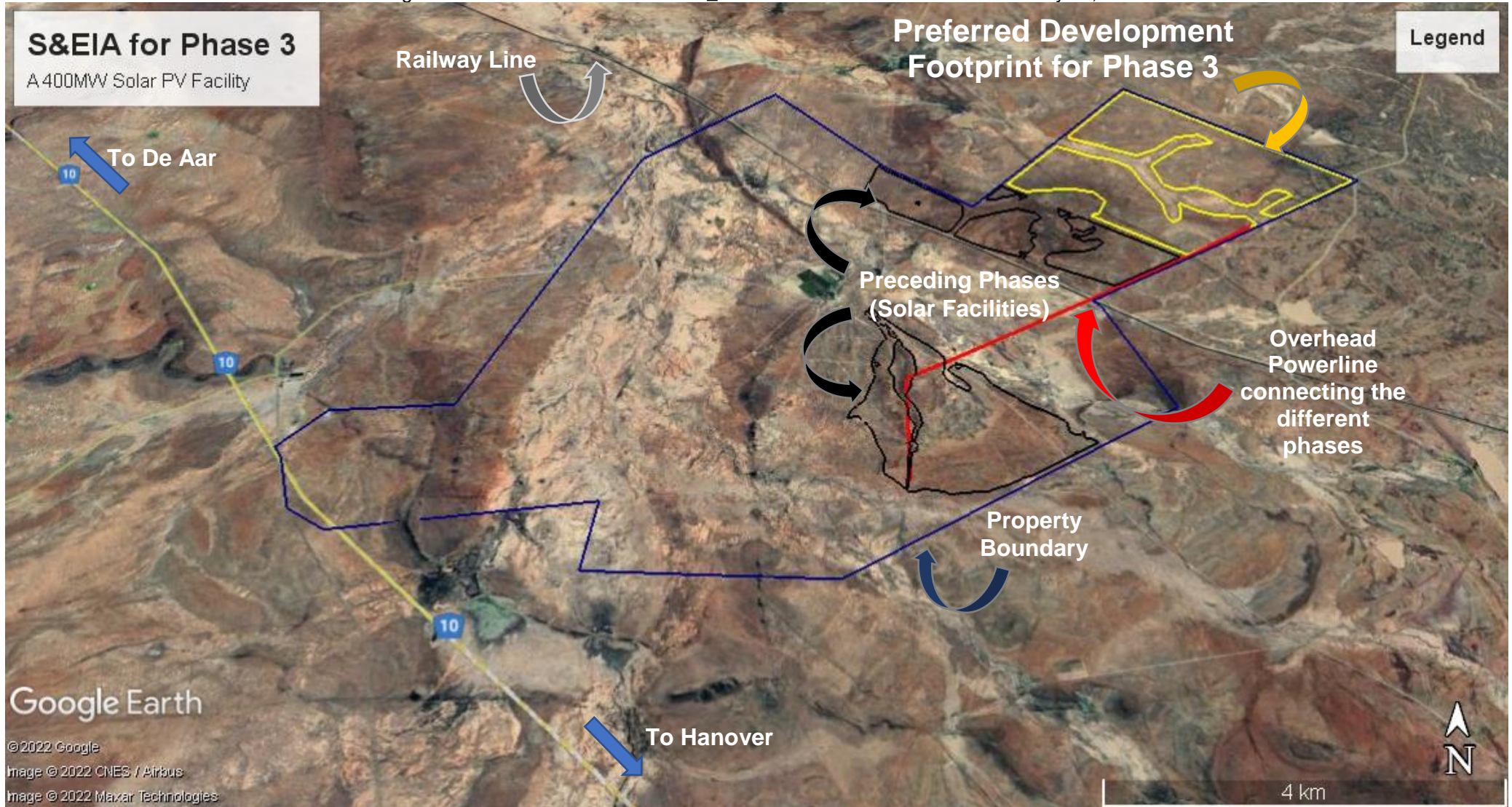
Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform) decision on the acceptability of the proposed project.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

- An advertisement will be placed in the De Aar Echo (a local newspaper based in De Aar, Northern Cape),
- Stakeholders, including landowners and land occupiers of neighbouring properties, other interested & affected parties, including the relevant authorities; will be notified of the proposed development in writing, and
- Notice boards advertising the applications will be placed on the boundary fence of the affected properties.
- Additional public participation processes may be undertaken considering COVID-19 and prevailing Disaster Management Act Regulations to help ensure thorough dissemination & access of information to I&APs.

LOCATION

The proposed project site is located on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province. The main access to the site is off the N10 between De Aar & Hanover.



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

ANTICIPATED ISSUES

Specialist Studies

The following specialist studies shall be undertaken, and are based on the outcomes of a Site Sensitivity Verification:

- Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Plant Species Specialist Assessment
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Avifauna Specialist Assessment
- Aquatic Biodiversity Specialist Assessment
- Archaeological & Cultural Heritage Specialist Assessment
- Palaeontological Specialist Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment
- Hydrology Assessment
- Geotechnical Assessment
- Bat Impact Assessment
- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- Traffic Impact Assessment

YOUR COMMENTS PLEASE!

Your comments on the proposed projects, the public participation process, and issues needing investigation, will assist the technical studies and the authorities in their consideration of the relevant environmental and social aspects.

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to assist us in:

- identifying possible impacts of the proposed development on the environment,
- making suggestions for mitigation and/or alternatives, and
- considering the “Need and Desirability”.

Mitigations

Mitigation measures will be developed for the anticipated issues. Stakeholders are however welcome to comment on these issues and provide additional observations.

NEMA and the EIA Regulations call for a hierarchical approach to impact management.

The Impact Mitigation Hierarchy

- *Firstly*, alternatives must be investigated to avoid negative impacts altogether.
- *Secondly*, after it has been found that the negative impacts cannot be avoided, alternatives must be investigated to reduce (mitigate and manage) unavoidable negative impacts to acceptable limits.
- *Thirdly*, alternatives must be investigated to remediate (rehabilitate and restore).
- *Fourthly*, unavoidable impact that remain after mitigation and remediation must be compensated for through investigating options to offset the negative impacts.
- *While throughout*, alternatives must be investigated to optimise positive impact.

Alternatives

Consideration of “Alternatives” is one element of the S & EIA process. Its role is to provide a framework for sound decision-making based on the principle of sustainable development.

Alternatives should be identified as early as possible in the project cycle.

Ecoleges not only welcomes stakeholders' input/suggestions, but also urges the public to submit possible alternatives.

It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a different means of meeting the general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to-

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity,
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken,
- (c) the design or layout of the activity,
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity,
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity, and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

When submitting alternatives, the recommended alternative must be:

- Practicable, Feasible, Relevant, Reasonable and Viable.

Need & Desirability

According to Regulation 13(1)(b) and 13(1)(e) read together with Regulation 18 of the amended EIA Regulations, 2014, EAPs and specialists must have knowledge of any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity and have regard to the need for and desirability of the undertaking of the proposed activity.

Considering that 'Need and Desirability' is determined by considering the broader societal/community needs and public interests, that is NOT the needs of the applicant/developer, we encourage you to also consider the Guideline on Need and Desirability published by DEA (2017) to help you identify key issues in respect of the need for and desirability of undertaking the proposed activity/development. The guideline is freely available on the web. However, we have also prepared a YouTube video that explains the intended concept of Need and Desirability:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0iHr-zE4TPzwhZjzoTPQMw>

The aim of the EIA process is to find that (reasonable and feasible) alternative that will ensure sustainable development. Consistent with the aforesaid aim and purpose of EIA, the concept of "need and desirability" relates to, amongst others, the nature, scale, and location of development being proposed, as well as the wise use of land.

Strictly speaking, "need" primarily refers to time and "desirability" refers to place, e.g., is this the right time and is it the right place for locating the type of land-use/activity being proposed? However, "need and desirability" are interrelated and the two components collectively can be considered in an integrated and holistic manner by engaging the **Questions** provided in the guideline document. The questions are divided into two broad categories relating to ecological sustainability (e.g., how the development will impact on ecosystems and biological diversity) and justifiable economic and social development.

We suspect the ecological category of questions address desirability and whether it is the right place, while the economic and social category of questions addresses broader societal needs, and whether this is the right time.

Need and desirability is like a drawstring that pulls the assessment process together to decide on the best option. When the sum of the impacts (evaluated during the impact assessment) is

considered holistically through the lens of Need and Desirability, that is by presenting them within the framework of questions posed by the guideline, then Need and Desirability becomes the overall impact summary to determine if the proposed activity is the best option or to decide on the fate of the application.

When collectively considering ecological, social, and economic impacts it is important to remember that while there might be some trade-offs between the considerations, all development must in terms of Section 24 of the Constitution be ecologically sustainable, while economic and social development must be justifiable. Consequently, there are specific "trade-off rules that apply, namely environmental integrity may never be compromised, and the social and economic development must take a certain form and meet certain specific objectives for it to be considered justifiable.

REGISTRATION

To ensure that you are registered as an interested and affected party, please complete the enclosed REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET and forward it to the address, fax or email provided below.

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 516
Machadodorp
1170

Fax: 086 697 9316

E-mail: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

ENQUIRIES

Please do not hesitate to visit us at our office or give us a call should you have any further queries or concerns regarding the listed activity(ies), water uses or development that is being proposed.

Physical address (Office):

2 Generaal Street
Machadodorp
1170

Cell: 072 654 8202 (Shannon Farnsworth) or 083 644-7179 (office)

Thank you for your participation!

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be submitted to the decision-making authority.

Please complete and return the below Registration and Comment Sheet and/or POPIA Consent Form
at your earliest convenience – we shall submit the draft report for comment at least 30 days from the date of this document.

Note: To withdraw your consent at any time please email us directly, and we will immediately delete your information from our records. Thank you.

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Title: Mr Name: Neville R.

Surname: Vimpany

Company Name / Interest Group: N/A

Postal or Residential Address: 3 Windrush Avenue

Linkside

Town / City: Port Elizabeth

Postal Code: 6001

Tel: () _____

Cell: 082 775 6699

Fax: () _____

E-mail address: richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za

A registered interested and affected party is entitled to object and comment, in writing, on all written submissions including draft reports made to the competent and/or responsible authority provided that - (c) the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below.

None.

Please indicate with an **X** whether you would like to be kept informed of the GA & BA process.

YES, I would like to be kept informed	X
NO, I am not interested	

If "YES", how would you like to be informed? (Please mark the appropriate block with an "X")

E-mail	X
Fax	

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

As the registered owner of the neighboring farm, being The Farm No. 149, I have the following concerns regarding the proposed Phase 3 of the Solar PV development, bordering along a 4 km long boundary fence line;

1.) The negative visual aspect and view of this development when viewed from my property adjacent. My farm has been owned by my family for three generations and the remoteness and unspoiled environment is a key factor of this legacy.

2.) Crime. This is a reality in SA today and although I don't live on my farm permanently, we have not experienced any criminal incidents in over 40 years. My fear is that industrial development adjacent to my farm will

Continued on APPENDIX A and APPENDIX B

POPIA CONSENT FORM

Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community, (v) a municipality, (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, or (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority, then we were required to give you notice in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2), and had to therefore derive your information, including name, contact details and address, from a public record. Alternatively, you may have been referred to us. If you are not an organ of state, did not submit written comments or attend meetings, did not request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, then we are not obligated in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to retain a record of your personal information in a register of interested and affected parties, and as such, must obtain proof of consent provided by yourself. To this effect, kindly confirm your consent by ticking the boxes below.

- I, in my capacity as the data subject, give consent to ecoleges, in its capacity as the responsible party, to process my personal information for purposes of pursuing its legitimate interests or those of a third party to whom the information is supplied, but limited to (1) the submission of reports or plans for comment, (2) transferring the same information to a third party, including registered interested and affected parties, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation, (3) submitting a copy of an appeal against a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and/or (4) submission of environmental audit reports (containing recommendations for amending the EMPr) for comment.
- I hereby acknowledge that only the minimum personal information that is required to be processed for the purpose of the EIA Regulations (2014) will be processed, including my name, contact details, address, and disclosure on any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.
- I hereby confirm that the personal information, which I shall provide is mine, and that it is complete, accurate, not misleading and updated.
- I hereby acknowledge that my personal information is being collected explicitly for public participation processes associated with this project.
- Irrespective of the decision to grant or refuse an environmental authorisation, and irrespective of whether the scope of the authorisation includes operational or development aspects only, I hereby give consent to ecoleges to retain my records indefinitely for historical and/or research purposes.
- I understand, upon submitting my personal information to ecoleges, that it will be saved on their server, which meets the various conditional "Minimum Security Requirements" of their Cyber Insurance company, including *inter alia* firewalls to restrict access to digitally stored sensitive information, anti-virus software implemented on all desktops, laptops and sensitive systems, password controls implemented on sensitive systems, etc.
- I understand that ecoleges shall inform me when there are reasonable grounds to believe that my personal information has been accessed or acquired by any unauthorised person.
- I have read and understand my [Section 5 Rights](#) as a data subject including *inter alia*, the right to -
 - request access to my personal information,

- request information about the identity of all third parties,
- request ecoleges to correct, update, destroy or delete my personal information, and
- lodge a complaint in writing to the [Information Regulator](#) if in my opinion the processing of information is not reasonable.

For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), which commenced on 01st July 2020, it is available at the following link: www.popia.co.za

Your participation in the Public Participation Process (PPP) is voluntary, but it is mandatory in terms of Regulation 42 and 43(1) of the amended EIA Regulations (2014) that we receive the relevant personal information for us to register you as an Interested and Affected Party, and for you to be entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans that we submit to you, respectively.

Failure to supply the information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered Interested and Affect Party.

Comments and Objections continued...

significantly increase the threat of criminal activity, be it stock theft, game poaching, property theft, home invasion or worse.

- 3.) Game breeding and management. Two of my camps adjacent to the proposed Phase 3 development site contain wild game. The impact of this solar development upon this game is of concern, as is the risk of damage to the solar panels as a result of period hunting and game management. I cannot be held responsible for any property damages, should they occur as a result.
- 4.) Road damage. The district gravel roads are not maintained by the local municipality and the inevitable increased traffic is likely to result in significant degradation of this sensitive infrastructure.
- 5.) Property value. It is reasonable to anticipate that the proposed development will negatively impact the value of my primary asset, for many years to come. My view is that the appeal of this unspoiled stock farm will be diminished as a direct result of the proximity of this huge industrial development.
- 6.) Long-term impact. The long-term impact, environmental and otherwise, remains unknown and therefore poses significant risk to all that will be impacted.
- 7.) Why here? Although the Investors' benefits are obvious, there are countless locations around South Africa that would be better suited to such an industrial development, so why use virgin ground and a '*Greenfield*' site of great agricultural value where countless less onerous and less valuable sun-drenched alternatives exist?



No. 3 Generaal Street, Machadodorp, 1170

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Tel: 086 644 7179

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www.ecoleges.co.za

3 Windrush Avenue
Linkside
Port Elizabeth
6001

March 10, 2022

Attention: Neville Richard Vimpany
Email: richard.vimpany@bravospace.co.za

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the above project as well as providing comments on the BID that was circulated via email on 17 February 2022.

The comments received on the BID via email on the 03rd March 2022 have reference:

Comment No. 1:

"The negative visual aspect and view of this development when viewed from my property adjacent. My farm has been owned by my family for three generations and the remoteness and unspoiled environment is a key factor of this legacy."

Response No. 1:

A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. The appointed specialist undertaking the Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa. The site assessment for the above specialist assessment is scheduled for 14 March 2022. Stephen will contact you beforehand for permission to access your farm so that he can investigate your concern. We will keep you updated on the findings and any proposed mitigation measures proposed by the appointed visual specialist during the EIA process.

Comment No. 2:

"Crime. This is a reality in SA today and although I don't live on my farm permanently, we have not experienced any criminal incidents in over 40 years. My fear is that industrial development adjacent to my farm will significantly increase the threat of criminal activity, be it stock theft, game poaching, property theft, home invasion or worse."

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Response No. 2:

The absence of crime over the past 40 years is most likely due to the remoteness of the area, and low population density. The solar PV facility will not alter the remoteness of the area considering that it will not improve accessibility or promote the establishment of townships. Nonetheless, we intend on securing the remoteness and safety of the area by proposing the following mitigations.

Security during construction

- (1) Security during construction will be mitigated by erecting the perimeter fence first to prevent any movement out of the development footprint.
- (2) No accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site.
- (3) Furthermore, the number of construction workers will be limited by building the facility in sequential phases of 100 MW blocks as opposed to trying to build the 400 MW facility in one go.
- (4) Security will be appointed throughout construction. All contractors and workers will need to wear photo identification cards and vehicles will need to display vehicle logos, making it easier for surrounding landowners (farmers) to identify strangers. Furthermore, it will be proposed that the applicant communicate with the landowners before the construction phase commences to formalise and familiarise the local farmers with the aforesaid security arrangements.
- (5) An induction programme that includes a Code of Conduct for all contractors and sub-contractors shall be developed.

Security during operation

- (1) Security will be appointed throughout operation to discourage criminal elements. The facility will also be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence with controlled access using a security gate. Furthermore, the perimeter fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ security cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.

Comment No.3:

“Game breeding and management. Two of my camps adjacent to the proposed Phase 3 development site contain wild game. The impact of this solar development upon this game is of concern, as is the risk of damage to the solar panels as a result of poaching and game management. I cannot be held responsible for any property damages, should they occur as a result.”

Response No. 3:

Kindly elaborate on how you believe the facility will impact on the breeding or management of wild game in the two adjacent camps. It is worth noting that a Terrestrial Animal Species Specialist Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

With regards to periodic hunting and damage to solar panels:

Section 120 of the Firearm Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) deals with offences. Section 120(3) refers:

“It is an offence to-

- (a) cause bodily injury to any person or cause damage to property of any person by negligently using a firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun;
- (b) discharge or otherwise handle a firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun in a manner likely to injure or endanger the safety or property of any person or with reckless disregard for the safety or property of any person; or

- (c) have control of a loaded firearm, an antique firearm or an airgun in circumstances where it creates a risk to the safety or property of any person and not to take reasonable precautions to avoid the danger.”

Furthermore, it is good practice to not shoot unless you know exactly where your bullet is going to strike. Prior to firing, the target should be identified, what is behind the target should be identified and where the bullet is likely to rest, taking into account ricochets etc.

Comment No. 4:

“Road damage. The district gravel roads are not maintained by the local municipality and the inevitable increased traffic is likely to result in significant degradation of this sensitive infrastructure.”

Response No. 4:

The applicant shall maintain any deterioration to the district gravel roads resulting from increased traffic during construction.

A Traffic Impact Assessment shall be undertaken. Specialist Assessment and a Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

Comment No. 5:

“Property value. It is reasonable to anticipate that the proposed development will negatively impact the value of my primary asset, for many years to come. My view is that the appeal of this unspoiled stock farm will be diminished as a direct result of the proximity of this huge industrial development.”

Response No. 5

A Socio-economic Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the EIA process. We have asked the specialist to as far as is possible research the validity of the said claim that solar PV facilities in rural areas reduce the property value of farms. We will keep you updated on the findings and any mitigation measures proposed by the appointed specialist during the EIA process.

Comment No. 6:

“Long-term impact. The long-term impact, environmental and otherwise, remains unknown and therefore poses significant risk to all that will be impacted.”

Response No. 6:

This comment is the reason for undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA process is to find that (reasonable and feasible) alternative that will ensure sustainable development. Multiple studies by registered professional natural scientists have been commissioned to identify and assess the impacts and risks on the geographical, physical, biological, social, economic, heritage and cultural aspects of the environment so that they can be appropriately mitigated for. These mitigations are incorporated into an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) that can be adapted (amended) according to the findings of ongoing monitoring during the life cycle of the activity.

Comment No. 7:

“Why here? Although the Investors’ benefits are obvious, there are countless locations around South Africa that would be better suited to such an industrial development, so why use virgin ground and a ‘Greenfield’ site of great agricultural value where countless less onerous and less valuable sun-drenched alternatives exist?”

Response No. 7:

The location factors are favourable for the development of a Solar PV facility including high and good quality solar irradiation (**Appendix A**), flat and gentle slopes and close proximity to existing Eskom infrastructure including powerlines to feed into the grid and the N10 for transport links.

The virgin land shall be used for both solar photovoltaic power generation and agriculture (Agrivoltaic). In other words, the current land use being sheep farming will continue within the solar PV facility to ensure minimal reduction (if any) on agricultural potential of the land as well as a management tool to control vegetation growth. An Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Specialist Assessment has been commissioned to *inter alia* model and map the terrain units, soil patterns and land capability values, as well as perform Veld Condition Assessments (VCA) and Grazing Assessments (carrying capacity). The aim is to generate sound site-specific grazing management recommendations and ensure that farming within the facility remains sustainable.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Appendix A

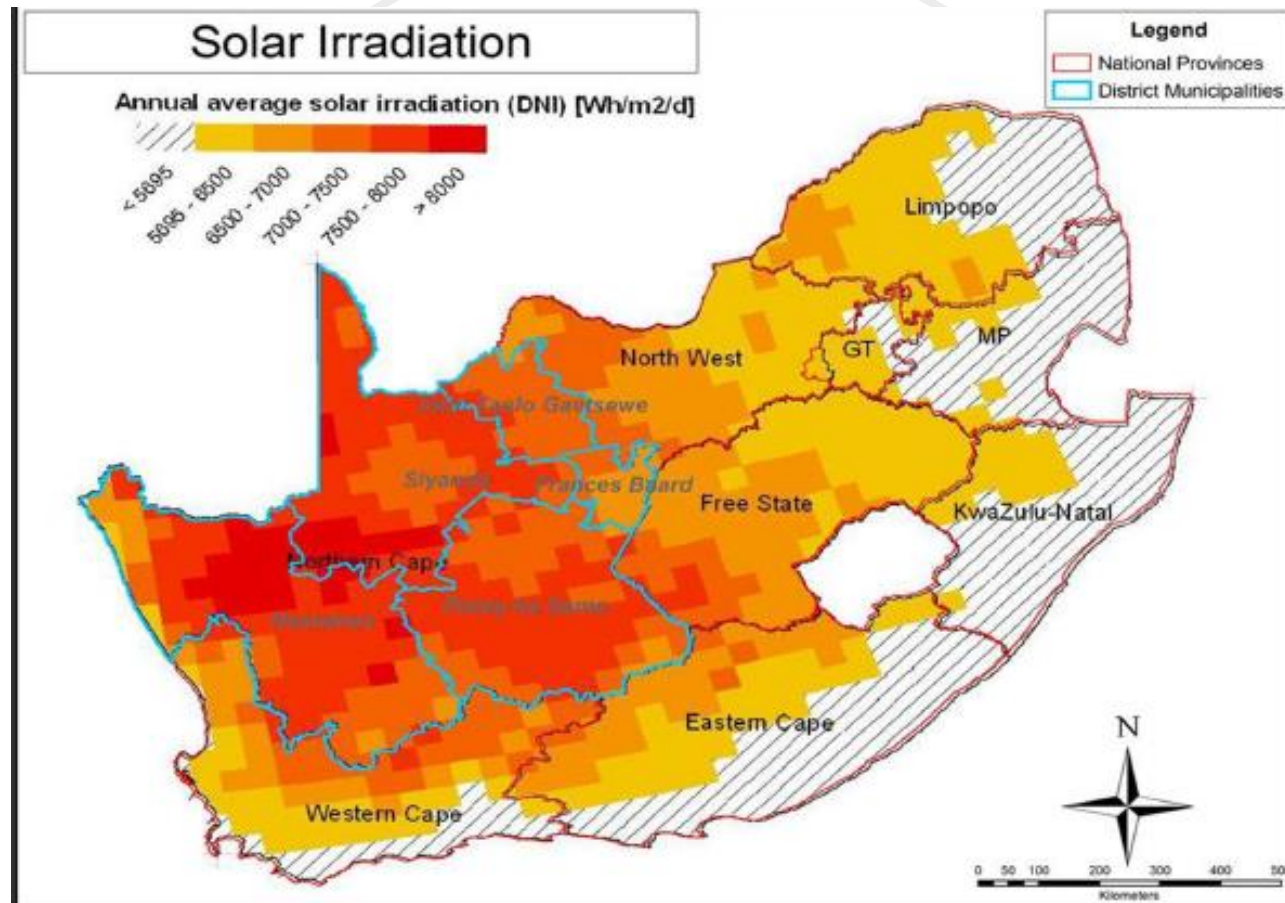


Figure 1: Solar irradiation map indicating the suitability of the Northern Cape for solar related projects (IDP, 2015-2016).

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M.Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

Visser Straat 99

De Aar

7000

25 Maart, 2022

Aandag: Manuel Orfao

Epos: mcorfao@worldonline.co.za

RE: REAKSIE OP KOMMENTAAR ONTVANG OP DIE AGTERGRONDINLICHTINGS-DOKUMENT (BID) VIR DIE VOORGESTELDE ONTWIKKELING VAN 'N 400 MW SONFOTOVOLTAÏSE FASILITEIT (FASE 3) OP DIE OORBLYWENDE DEEL VAN PLAAS GOEDE HOOP 26C HOOP EN GEDEELTE 3 EN VAN PLAAS GOEDE HOOP 26C, TUSSEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Eerstens wil ons u erken en bedank dat u as 'n Belangstellende en Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) vir die bogenoemde projek geregistreer het, asook dat u kommentaar gelewer het op die BID wat op 17 Februarie 2022 per e-pos gesirkuleer is.

Die kommentaar wat op die BID per epos op 22 Maart 2022 ontvang is, het verwysing:

Kommentaar No. 1 en No. 2:

1. "Veiligheid van die inwoners en besoekers."
2. "Diefstal en inbrake as gevolg van die ontwikkeling."

Reaksie No. 1 en No. 2:

Die sonkragfasiliteit sal nie die afgeleë ligging van die gebied verander nie, aangesien dit nie toeganklikheid sal verbeter of die stigting van townships sal bevorder nie. Nietemin beoog ons om die afgeleë ligging en veiligheid van die gebied te verseker deur die volgende versagtings voor te stel.

Sekuriteit gedurende konstruksie

- (1) Sekuriteit tydens konstruksie sal versag word deur eers die omtrekheining op te rig om enige beweging uit die ontwikkelingsvoetspoor te voorkom.
- (2) Geen akkommodasie sal vir kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs op die konstruksierrein voorsien word nie.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

- (3) Verder sal die aantal konstruksiewerkers beperk word deur die fasiliteit in opeenvolgende fases van 100 MW-blokke te bou in plaas daarvan om die 400 MW-fasiliteit op een slag te probeer bou.
- (4) Sekuriteit sal regdeur konstruksie aangestel word. Alle kontrakteurs en werkers sal foto-identifikasiekaarte moet dra en voertuie sal voertuiglogo's moet vertoon, wat dit makliker maak vir omliggende grondeienaars (boere) om vreemdelinge te identifiseer. Verder sal daar voorgestel word dat die applikant met die grondeienaars kommunikeer voordat die konstruksiefase 'n aanvang neem om die plaaslike boere te formaliseer en vertrouwd te maak met die voormelde sekuriteitsreëlings.
- (5) 'n Induksieprogram wat 'n Gedragskode vir alle kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs insluit, sal ontwikkel word.

Sekuriteit tydens operasie

- (1) Sekuriteit sal regdeur die operasie aangestel word om kriminele elemente te ontmoedig. Die fasiliteit sal ook omhein word met 'n 2,5 m hoë draadgaasveiligheidsheining met beheerde toegang deur 'n veiligheidshek. Verder sal die omtrek heining beveilig word met behulp van veelvuldige FLIR PTZ sekuriteitskameras wat 'n 2 km reikafstand in absolute duisternis het.

Kommentaar No. 3:

“Uitsig – Sonpanele sigbaar vanaf Skilpadskuil, nie meer natuuruitsig nie”

Reaksie No. 3:

'n Landskap/Visuele Impakstudie word tydens die Omgewingsimpakstudie proses onderneem. Die aangestelde spesialis wat die landskap-/visuele impakbepaling onderneem is Stephen Stead van Visual Resource Management Africa. Ons sal jou op hoogte hou van die bevindings en enige voorgestelde versagtingsmaatreëls wat deur die aangestelde visuele impakspesialis aanbeveel word.

Kommentaar No. 4:

“Grondwaarde – Grond gaan heel moontlik minder waarde hê as gevolg van ontwikkeling vir toekomstige kopers.”

Reaksie No. 4:

'n Sosio-ekonomiese impakstudie word tydens die Omgewingsimpakstudie proses onderneem. Ons het die spesialis gevra om sover moontlik na te vors oor die geldigheid van die genoemde bewering dat sonkrag fasiliteite in landelike gebiede die eiendomswaarde van plase verminder. Ons sal jou dienooreenkomstig op hoogte hou.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

Kommentaar No. 5:

“Toestand van paaie – Paaie gaan heel moontlik verswak as gevolg van swaar voertuie.”

Reaksie No. 5:

Die aansoeker sal onderhoud doen op enige agteruitgang van die distriksgrondpaaie as gevolg van verhoogde verkeer tydens konstruksie.

Verder word 'n Verkeersimpakstudie ook onderneem.

Kommentaar No. 6:

“Gevaar van brande as gevolg van werkers”

Reaksie No. 6:

Die risiko van veldbrande beide tydens die konstruksie- en bedryfsfase is geïdentifiseer as 'n potensieële impak. Daar moet kennis geneem word dat geen akkommodasie vir kontrakteurs en subkontrakteurs op die konstruksieterrein voorsien sal word nie. Nietemin beoog ons om hierdie bekommernis aan te spreek deur die volgende versagtings voor te stel:

- (1) Oop vure is verbode;
- (2) Verbranding van afval is verbode; en
- (3) Instandhouding van brandbane rondom die omtrek van die voorgestelde ontwikkeling moet gedoen word.

Kommentaar No. 7:

“Gevaar dat sonpanele beskadig kan word gedurende jagte. (’n derde van Skilpadskuil grens aan Fase 2 en Fase 3).”

Reaksie No. 7:

Jou kommer is 'n werklike risiko en word baie waardeer. Ons verwelkom enige voorstelle wat die veiligheid van naburige grondeienaars en hul eiendom gedurende die jagseisoen sal verbeter, soos om “geen skietsones” te identifiseer, naburige eiendomme van naderende jagtogte in kennis te stel, jagters wat die toepaslike versekering uitneem, ens.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

Toepaslike spesialiste is versoek om sommige van u bekommernisse in hul omvang in te sluit en oplossings by wyse van versagting te bied. Hierdie studies sal hopelik vir ons antwoorde gee om ingeligte besluite vorentoe te neem. Jou bekommernisse is nou deel van ons Omgewingsimpakstudie proses. Neem asseblief die tyd om ons konsepverslae te hersien wanneer ons dit vir kommentaar versprei om te verseker dat ons u bekommernisse voldoende aangespreek het.

Moet asseblief nie huiwer om ons te kontak indien u enige verdere navrae of bekommernisse het nie.

Die uwe,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

Selfoon: +27 (0)72 654 8202

Epos: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)

Reg: 2006/023163/23

REGISTRASIE- EN KOMMENTAARBLAD

400 MW SONFOTOVOLTAISE (FV) FASILITEIT (FASE 3) OP DIE RES VAN DIE PLAAS
GOEIE HOOP 26C EN GEDEELTE 3 VAN DIE PLAAS GOEIE HOOP 26C, TUSSEN DE
AAR & HANOVER

Titel: <u>Mr.</u>	Naam: <u>Manuel</u>
Van: <u>Orfao</u>	
Maatskappynaam / Belangegroep: <u>M.C. Orfao</u>	
	<u>Skilpadskuil</u>
Pos- of Woonadres: <u>99 Visser Street</u>	
	<u>De Aar, 7000</u>
Dorp / Stad: <u>De Aar</u>	
Pos Kode: <u>7000</u>	
Tel: (<u>053</u>) <u>6310926</u>	
Sel: <u>0827841972</u>	
Faks: (<u>053</u>) <u>6310926</u>	
E-posl adres: <u>mcorfao@worldonline.co.za</u>	
<p>'n Geregistreerde belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party is geregtig om beswaar te maak en skriftelik kommentaar te lewer op alle skriftelike voorleggings, insluitend konsepverslae wat aan die bevoegde en/of verantwoordelike owerheid gemaak is, mits - (c) die belanghebbende en geaffekteerde party enige direkte besigheid, finansiële, persoonlike of ander belang wat daardie party mag hê by die goedkeuring of weiering van die aansoek. Verskaf asseblief sulke inligting in die spasie hieronder verskaf.</p>	
<p>Dui asseblief met 'n X aan of u op hoogte gehou wil word van die GA & BA-proses.</p>	
JA, ek wil graag op hoogte gehou word	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NEE, ek stel nie belang nie	<input type="checkbox"/>

As "JA", dui asb aan met 'n X hoe u op hoogte gehou wil word.

E-pos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Faks	<input type="checkbox"/>

KOMMENTAAR: (Indien u meer spasie benodig as wat voorsien word, heg asseblief addisionele bladsye aan)

1. Veiligheid van woners, besoekers.
2. Diefstal en inbrake agv ontwikkeling
3. Uitsig: sonpanele in sig vanaf skilpadskuil, nie meer natuur uitsig.
4. Grondwaarde: grond gaan heel moontlik minder waarde he agv. ontwikkeling vir toekomstige kopers
5. Toestand van paaie: die paaie gaan heel moontlik verswak agv. swaar voertuie
6. Gevaar van brande agv werkers
7. Gevaar dat sonpanele beskadig kan word gedurende jagte.
(in derde van skilpadskuil grens teen fase 2/3)

POPIA TOESTEMMINGSVORM

Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community, (v) a municipality, (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, or (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority, then we were required to give you notice in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2), and had to therefore derive your information, including name, contact details and address, from a public record. Alternatively, you may have been referred to us. If you are not an organ of state, did not submit written comments or attend meetings, did not request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, then we are not obligated in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to retain a record of your personal information in a register of interested and affected parties, and as such, must obtain proof of consent provided by yourself. To this effect, kindly confirm your consent by ticking the boxes below.

- I, in my capacity as the data subject, give consent to ecoleges, in its capacity as the responsible party, to process my personal information for purposes of pursuing its legitimate interests or those of a third party to whom the information is supplied, but limited to (1) the submission of reports or plans for comment, (2) transferring the same information to a third party, including registered interested and affected parties, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation, (3) submitting a copy of an appeal against a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and/or (4) submission of environmental audit reports (containing recommendations for amending the EMP) for comment.
- I hereby acknowledge that only the minimum personal information that is required to be processed for the purpose of the EIA Regulations (2014) will be processed, including my name, contact details, address, and disclosure on any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.
- I hereby confirm that the personal information, which I shall provide is mine, and that it is complete, accurate, not misleading and updated.
- I hereby acknowledge that my personal information is being collected explicitly for public participation processes associated with this project.
- Irrespective of the decision to grant or refuse an environmental authorisation, and irrespective of whether the scope of the authorisation includes operational or development aspects only, I hereby give consent to ecoleges to retain my records indefinitely for historical and/or research purposes.
- I understand, upon submitting my personal information to ecoleges, that it will be saved on their server, which meets the various conditional "Minimum Security Requirements" of their Cyber Insurance company, including *inter alia* firewalls to restrict access to digitally stored sensitive information, anti-virus software implemented on all desktops, laptops and sensitive systems, password controls implemented on sensitive systems, etc.
- I understand that ecoleges shall inform me when there are reasonable grounds to believe that my personal information has been accessed or acquired by any unauthorised person.
- I have read and understand my Section 5 Rights as a data subject including *inter alia*, the right to -
- request access to my personal information,

- request information about the identity of all third parties,
- request ecoleges to correct, update, destroy or delete my personal information, and
- lodge a complaint in writing to the Information Regulator if in my opinion the processing of information is not reasonable.

For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), which commenced on 01st July 2020, it is available at the following link: www.popia.co.za

Your participation in the Public Participation Process (PPP) is voluntary, but it is mandatory in terms of Regulation 42 and 43(1) of the amended EIA Regulations (2014) that we receive the relevant personal information for us to register you as an Interested and Affected Party, and for you to be entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans that we submit to you, respectively.

Failure to supply the information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered Interested and Affect Party.

**Die wetgewing word in Engels aangehaal soos wat dit oorspronklik gepubliseer is om te verhoed dat die bedoeling, intensie, en taalgebruik van die wetgewing met moontlike onakkuraathede beïnvloed kan word tydens die vertalings proses.*

99 Visser Street
De Aar
7000

March 25, 2022

Attention: Manuel Orfao
Email: mcorfao@worldonline.co.za

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the above project as well as providing comments on the BID that was circulated via email on 17 February 2022.

The comments received on the BID via email on the 22nd March 2022 have reference:

Comment No. 1 and No. 2:

1. *"Safety of the residents and visitors."*
2. *"Theft and burglary due to the development."*

Response No. 1 and No. 2:

The solar PV facility will not alter the remoteness of the area considering that it will not improve accessibility or promote the establishment of townships. Nonetheless, we intend on securing the remoteness and safety of the area by proposing the following mitigations.

Security during construction

- (1) Security during construction will be mitigated by erecting the perimeter fence first to prevent any movement out of the development footprint.
- (2) No accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site.
- (3) Furthermore, the number of construction workers will be limited by building the facility in sequential phases of 100 MW blocks as opposed to trying to build the 400 MW facility in one go.
- (4) Security will be appointed throughout construction. All contractors and workers will need to wear photo identification cards and vehicles will need to display vehicle logos, making it easier for surrounding landowners (farmers) to identify strangers. Furthermore, it will be proposed that the applicant communicates with the landowners before the construction phase commences to formalise and familiarise the local farmers with the aforesaid security arrangements.

- (5) An induction programme that includes a Code of Conduct for all contractors and sub-contractors shall be developed.

Security during operation

- (1) Security will be appointed throughout operation to discourage criminal elements. The facility will also be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence with controlled access using a security gate. Furthermore, the perimeter fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ security cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness.

Comment No.3:

“View impairment – The area designated for the solar panels are visible from Skilpadskuil, which means that the view will no longer be a nature scenery.”

Response No. 3:

A Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is being undertaken during the EIA process. The appointed specialist undertaking the Landscape/Visual Impact Assessment is Stephen Stead of Visual Resource Management Africa. We will keep you updated on the findings and any proposed mitigation measures recommended by the appointed visual impact specialist.

Comment No. 4:

“Land/Farm Value – The value of the land/farm will most likely decrease due to the development, which may have an effect on future buyers (including farmers – looking to buy the land).”

Response No. 4:

A Socio-economic Impact Assessment is being undertaken during the EIA process. We have asked the specialist to as far as is possible research the validity of the said claim that solar PV facilities in rural areas reduce the property value of farms. We will keep you updated accordingly.

Comment No. 5:

“Road conditions – The condition of the roads will most likely deteriorate as a result of the heavy vehicles using the roads.”

Response No. 5

The applicant shall maintain any deterioration to the district gravel roads resulting from increased traffic during construction.

Furthermore, a Traffic Impact Assessment is also being undertaken.

Comment No. 6:

“Risk of veld fires caused by workers during the construction of the plant.”

Response No. 6:

Risk of veld fires both during the construction and operational phases has been identified as a potential impact. It should be noted that no accommodation shall be provided for contractors and sub-contractors on the construction site. Nonetheless, we intend on addressing this concern by proposing the following mitigations.

- 1) Open fires are prohibited;
- 2) Burning of waste is prohibited; and
- 3) Maintenance of firebreaks around the perimeter of the proposed development.

Comment No. 7:

“Risk of solar panels being damaged during the hunting season (1/3 of Skilpadskuil borders the Phase 2 & Phase 3 development).”

Response No. 7:

Your concern is a real risk and very much appreciated. We welcome any suggestions that will improve the safety of neighbouring landowners and their property during the hunting season, such as identifying no shooting zones, notifying neighbouring properties of imminent hunts, hunters taking out the appropriate insurances, etc.

Applicable specialists were requested to include some of your concerns in their scope and offer solutions by way of mitigations. These studies will hopefully provide us with answers to make informed decisions going forward. Your concerns are now a part of our EIA process. Please take the time to review our draft reports when we distribute them for comment to ensure that we have adequately addressed your concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

Mobile: +27 (0)72 654 8202
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday March 04, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 9005
NELSPRUIT
1200

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Thank you for notifying SAHRA of the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application for the proposed development of a 400MW Solar Photovoltaic facility on the remainder of and portion 3 the Farm Goede Hoop 26C, near De Aar, Northern Cape Province.

As the proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA), NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended, it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that an application specific **Heritage Impact Assessment** (HIA) is done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA. This must include an archaeological component, palaeontological component and any other applicable heritage components. The HIA must be conducted **as part of the** EA Application in terms of NEMA and the NEMA EIA Regulations.

SAHRA requests that an assessment of the impacts to heritage resources that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA as required by section 38(8) of the NHRA and section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA be conducted as part of the EA process.

The assessment must include an assessment of the impact to archaeological and palaeontological resources. The assessment of archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday March 04, 2022
Page No: 2

The proposed development is located within an area of moderate and very high Palaeontological Sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist. (See <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html> for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

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.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the draft Scoping and EIA documents inclusive of appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday March 04, 2022
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South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/592717>

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

No. 3 Generaal Street

Machadodorp (eNtokozweni), 1170

Email: shaun@ecoleges.co.za

Date: 16 March 2022

Dear Shannon Farnsworth

RE: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR AND HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

This letter is in response to the proposed solar development and its possible impact on the Square Kilometre Array radio telescopes.

SARAO has undertaken a high-level impact assessment and based on the information provided it was determined that the project represents a low risk of interference to the SKA radio telescope with a compliance surplus of 57.02 dBm/Hz. As such, we do not have any objection to the proposed development.

Thank you for your correspondence, our office remains open to discuss any matter relating to the above.

www.ska.ac.za

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation and incorporates all national radio astronomy telescopes and programmes. SARAO is responsible for implementing the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa.

Regards,



Mr Selaelo Matlhane

Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Tel: 011 442 2434

Email: smatlhane@ska.ac.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167

Enquiries: Ms Constance Musemburi

Telephone: (012) 399 9416 **E-mail:** CMusemburi@dff.gov.za

Ms Shannon Farnsworth
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 516
MACHADODORP
1170

Telephone Number: ((082) 451 5608
Cell: (072) 654 8202
Email Address: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Farnsworth

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (DSR) dated 03 June 2022, received by the Department on 10 June 2022 and acknowledged on 15 June 2022, refers.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report (FSR):

(a) Application form

- i. The reason for this Department being the competent authority in terms of S24C of NEMA (Refer to Section 1 of the application form), must be expanded to include the agreement dated 09 May 2022.
- ii. Please ensure that the relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The applicant/EAP must certain which activities are triggered and avoid the use of words such as “may”. You are required to provide thresholds for each activity included.
- iii. Please consider the applicability of phased listed activities since this is a phased development.
- iv. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the FSR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department’s application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- v. Please include a column on the table in Appendix 3: List of Landowners, which references the included landowner consent letters. The list of landowners should be specific to the non-linear grid infrastructure. The column should include:

Parent Farm	Farm No	Portion No	SG Code	Landowner	Contact Person	Cell	E-Mail	Landowner consent included
Broodsn yersplaa ts	25 IS	7	TOIS 0000 0000 0025 0000 7	Willem Andries De Klerk	Anton Pelser	082 804 1796	astro2@megaweb.co.za	Page X

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- i. Please provide a separate appendix which includes all the maps contained in the scoping report.
- ii. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
 - The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development;
 - The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All “no-go” areas.
- iii. The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- iv. Google maps will not be accepted.

(c) Assessment of Alternatives:

- i. Please ensure that the final Scoping Report adequately assess, evaluate and address alternatives. Please note, through the description and assessment of alternatives in the scoping report, the decision maker must be in a position to follow the argument as to which alternatives will be further evaluated in the EIA phase and which alternatives will be scoped out of the process. Please be specific and straight to the point when presenting information. Please ensure that a description of each of the preferred alternative type and a detailed motivation on why it is preferred is provided. This information should also form part of the Plan of Study for EIA.
- ii. Please ensure that the identified alternatives for the proposed activity **are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community** that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 (1) (c) (d) and 2 (h) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 (2)(x)(xi).
- iii. Further note that the final Scoping Report must comply with Appendix 2, Regulation 2 (1) which states that “A scoping report must contain the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the process, informing all preferred alternatives”. The Regulations specifically requires that a preferred alternative be identified during the final Scoping Report.

(d) Public Participation Process

- i. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the FSR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the FSR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- ii. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format, which includes the date when the comments were received. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- iii. The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities.

(e) Specialist Assessments

- i. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of the proposed grid and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- ii. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- iii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- iv. It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.**

(f) Cumulative Assessment

Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.

- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

General

When providing coordinates as part of the information submitted regarding the location of an activity as part of an application for environmental authorisation, such coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system as per regulation 5(6) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

You are further reminded that the FSR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Ms Milicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Letter signed by: Mr Lerato Mokoena

Designation: Assistant Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 06 July 2022

cc:	Jean Paul de Villiers	Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd.	Email: jp.devilliers@soventix.com
	Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	Email: BFisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Isak Visser	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Email: visser@emthanjeni.co.za



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**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
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**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

For Attention:

Constance Musemburi
Directorate: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Tel: +27 (0)12 399 9416
Cell: +27 (0)72 778 5905
Email: cmusemburi@environment.gov.za

July 15, 2022

RE: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, AND OTHER PROPERTIES BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.”

(DFFE REFERENCE: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167)

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and thank the Department for providing comments on the Draft Scoping Report, and especially well within the 30-day comment period.

The comments dated 06 dated 06 July 2022 and received via email on 06 July 2022 have reference:

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

(a) Application form

i. The reason for this Department being the competent authority in terms of S24C of NEMA (Refer to Section 1 of the application form), must be expanded to include the agreement dated 09 May 2022.

Section 1 of the Application form does include the following reference to the Agreement, "Refer to Section 24C (3) Agreement from the Minister to DENC in the Northern Cape dated 05th May 2022 (**APPENDIX 14**)". The date has been corrected to reflect "09th May".

A summary of the Agreement will be included in Section 1.

ii. Please ensure that the relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The applicant/EAP must certain which activities are triggered and avoid the use of words such as "may". You are required to provide thresholds for each activity included.

The Application Form has been revised as follows and will be resubmitted.

1. Changed the project title to include reference to the on-site substation and distribution line by adding the words "and associated infrastructure" as well the additional properties affected by the linear infrastructure by adding the words "and other properties".
- "The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated infrastructure (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, and other properties between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa." on page 1.
2. Corrected the date from the "05th" to the "09th" in Section 1 to "Refer to Section 24C (3) Agreement from the Minister to DENC in the Northern Cape dated 09th May 2022 (**APPENDIX 14**)" on page 3.
3. Updated the PROJECT DESCRIPTION from page 7 to make it more accurate.
4. Updated the descriptions for the listed activities in Section 7. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR, by replacing the word "may" with "will" and including thresholds for each activity.
5. Updated Appendix 3 relating to land ownership.
6. Updated 6. SITE DESCRIPTION and Appendix 6 relating to the properties affected by the linear infrastructure.

Please consider the applicability of phased listed activities since this is a phased development.

Kindly be advised that while this development has been referred to as Phase 3, there will be activities that are not phased, particularly, for example, if they have been authorised in the previous two phases.

Nonetheless, a review of the phased listed activities revealed that none are applicable to this project as applicable listed activities are either included in this application or the thresholds prescribed in other potential listed activities read with the phased activities, are not exceeded when all three developments are combined (**Appendix A**).

If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the FSR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

The activities applied for in the application do not differ from those mentioned in the FSR. However, the Application Form has been amended (see above) and will be resubmitted.

Please include a column on the table in Appendix 3: List of Landowners, which references the included landowner consent letters. The list of landowners should be specific to the non-linear grid infrastructure. The column should include:

The official Application Form reads, "*In instances where there is more than one landowner, please attach a list of those landowners with their contact details as Error! Reference source not found.*" There is only one landowner for the non-linear grid infrastructure, and his contact details are on page 5 of the Application Form. Appendix 3 contains his Letter of Consent – there is no point in creating a table with a column entitled "landowner consent included" when Appendix 3 already contains the Letter of Consent.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

We have added a table as requested to Appendix 3 including the landowner (Transnet) of the railway line property that will be intersected by the linear infrastructure, specifically the distribution line.

(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

i. Please provide a separate appendix which includes all the maps contained in the scoping report.

An Appendix containing the Locality Map (**Appendix A Site Plan**) already exists. Any other Maps will be added to the same Appendix.

ii. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: • The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development; • The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map; • All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); • The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; • Buffer areas; and • All “no-go” areas.

• The proposed solar facilities with associated infrastructure for each development; • The proposed grid infrastructure for each of the above facilities, overlain by the sensitivity map; - **We shall produce a second locality map that includes the footprints for phases 1 and 2 as well their respective substations and transmission lines, the eskom grid infrastructure and a sensitivity layer.**

• All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); **The first locality map will be revised to include existing boreholes and roads.**

• The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected; - **The locality map (Appendix A) is already overlain with a sensitivity map that includes the location of sensitive environmental features.**

• Buffer areas; and • All “no-go” areas – **A pre-liminary no-go area, specifically a watercourse that bisects the study area, was identified using the results of the specialist assessments from Phase 1 and included in the locality Map (Appendix A). Additional buffer and no-go areas cannot be realistically depicted at this stage of the application and until the specialists have submitted their findings.**

iii. The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

The locality map (**Appendix A**) is already overlain with a sensitivity map.

A third map will be produced that overlays a sensitivity layer, other solar developments within a 30 km radius and existing grid infrastructure.

iv. Google maps will not be accepted.

Locality and sensitivity maps are produced by a GIS specialist using a programme or software that is more advanced than Google maps. However, we shall continue to use Google earth images to visually illustrate any written concepts explained in our reports.

(c) Assessment of Alternatives:

i. Please ensure that the final Scoping Report adequately assess, evaluate and address alternatives. Please note, through the description and assessment of alternatives in the scoping report, the decision maker must be in a position to follow the argument as to which alternatives will be further evaluated in the EIA phase and which alternatives will be scoped out of the process. Please be specific and straight to the point when presenting information. Please ensure that a description of each of the preferred alternative type and a detailed motivation on why it is preferred is provided. This information should also form part of the Plan of Study for EIA.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

There are no alternatives other than the preferred alternative site and no-go option. The preferred alternative site and no-go option were assessed and evaluated – refer to the 201-page assessment of alternatives in **Appendix D**. An argument/motivation for evaluating the preferred alternative and “scoping out” the no-go option during the EIA is provided in the relevant sections of the SR, specifically the site selection matrix, a concluding statement and an impact statement, which ends with a detailed description motivating why the preferred site is preferred over the no-go option (**see Section G: Investigation of Alternatives; Site Selection Matrix, Concluding Statement, and Impact Statement**).

ii. Please ensure that the identified alternatives for the proposed activity are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 (1) (c) (d) and 2 (h) of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2 (2)(x)(xi).

A written 7-page investigation is provided under “A motivation for not considering Alternatives” (other than the preferred site and no-go option) in Section G: Investigation of Alternatives of the SR.

iii. Further note that the final Scoping Report must comply with Appendix 2, Regulation 2 (1) which states that “A scoping report must contain the information that is necessary for a proper understanding of the process, informing all preferred alternatives”. The Regulations specifically requires that a preferred alternative be identified during the final Scoping Report.

The process for informing all preferred alternatives is explained in Section G: Investigation of Alternatives, including the subsections, entitled “Types of Alternatives” and “Identification of Alternatives”. A preferred alternative site has been identified – see above replies.

(d) Public Participation Process

i. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the DSR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the FSR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the FSR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

All issues raised and comments received shall be adequately addressed in the FSR by copying the issues and/or comments into the “Comment and Response Report”, providing copies of the original comments and amending the draft Scoping Report where applicable. The Draft Scoping Report was distributed by email. A table summarizing the outcomes of the follow up action to verify receipt of the draft report for comment shall be provided in the PPP Report (**Appendix C**).

ii. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format, which includes the date when the comments were received. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.

The Comment and Response Report shall be provided as a separate document in an Annexure of the PPP Report (**Appendix C** of the FSR). The C&R Report will incorporate all historical comments, starting from the inception of the PPP, in a table format. The table of comments and responses shall include the dates when the comments were received, and responses given. Comments shall not be summarised. Adequate responses shall be provided.

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

iii. The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development; particularly the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities.

Evidence of notification and invitation to comment, e.g., screenshot of the email distribution, shall be provided in an Annexure of the PPP Report (in **Appendix C** of the FSR). A Register of all registered I&APs, including the relevant Provincial Departments, the District and Local Municipalities, that were included in the PPP process, e.g., invited to comment on the DSR, shall also be provided in the PPP Report.

(e) Specialist Assessments

i. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of the proposed grid and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.

This requirement has been forwarded to the team of specialists for their attention via email on Thursday 07th July 2022. The locations of the proposed grid and associated infrastructures, specifically the Solar PV facility, on-site substation, and distribution line were provided to the specialists. However, logically, the final locations may not be reflected in their final reports as footprints may need to be shifted out of no-go areas (**but still remain within the study area**) that have been demarcated by other specialists.

ii. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.

This requirement has been forwarded to the team of specialists for their attention via email on Thursday 07th July 2022. Some studies, such as heritage, palaeontology, socio-economic, traffic, etc. are not dependent on season. However, those studies that are, such as the avian impact assessment are still underway to record observations across different seasons.

iii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.

We in our capacity as the EAP will investigate and motivate a preferred recommendation in those instances where different specialists provide contradicting recommendations.

iv. It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.

The Protocols were referred to in the relevant specialists' Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are included with the Specialists' Plans of Study in **Appendix E** of the FSR.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

Section H: "A Plan of Study" in the FSR will be updated to include these requirements contained in

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

(f) Cumulative Assessment.

An entirely separate section called "Cumulative Assessment" shall be created in the EIA Report. It shall be inserted after the existing Impact Assessment section. This section will include a description of similar developments (Solar PV) within 30 km (and illustrated on a map). After this sub-section, there will be other introductory sub-sections that summarises or lists the identified cumulative impacts, as well as a detailed but brief description of the process for taking the specialist's mitigations into consideration.

- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.

The specialists were requested to assess cumulative impacts relating to their environmental themes. Having said that, not all themes, such as Heritage and Paleontological themes are affected by cumulative impacts from neighbouring facilities as their impacts are localized to the physical footprint.

Nonetheless, the suite of identified cumulative impacts to be assessed shall be linked to/identified by each of the specialists. So, we will have sub-sections entitled, "Aquatic", "Terrestrial Biodiversity", "Geohydrology", "Visual", etc.

The cumulative impacts shall, as far as is possible, be quantified.

- Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.

The specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions relating to cumulative impacts will be summarised within each of our corresponding sub-sections, e.g., Avian, Aquatic, Hydrology, etc. Applicable (not necessarily all) recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions will then be linked to our identified (chosen) cumulative impacts to be assessed and then considered in our assessment of impact significance through its contribution to extent, duration, magnitude etc.

- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.

The Cumulative Assessment Section of the EIA Report will end with a Conclusion that summarises the outcomes of assessing each identified cumulative impact. Each of these findings will be carried over into the relevant Q&A sections of the Need & Desirability Section.

- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed

A cumulative impact environmental statement will be provided in the Conclusion of the Cumulative Assessment Section of the EIA Report.

General

When providing coordinates as part of the information submitted regarding the location of an activity as part of an application for environmental authorisation, such coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system as per regulation 5(6) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 coordinate system has been and will continue to be used.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: "If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44

MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
Reg: 2006/023163/23

days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority”

The DSR is currently subject to a 30-day comment period, which ends on Thursday 14th July 2022. DFFE’s comments including this response will be included in the FSR. We then plan to submit the FSR before the 25th July 2022, which is 44 days from the day the Application was received by DFFE (10th June 2022), taking into account the public holiday on the 16th June (Youth Day).

You are further reminded that the FSR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

The Scoping Report does comply with and follows the same sequence as the requirements contained in Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

We in our capacity as the EAP shall continually strive to meet the regulated timeframes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Shannon Farnsworth (Reg. EAP)
Environmental Assessment Practitioner
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants

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MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
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Appendix A: Consideration of Phased Listed Activities.

Listed Activity Number	Listed Activity Description	Applicability	Motivation
1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where – (i) the electricity output is more than 10 megawatts but less than 20 megawatts; or (ii) the output is 10 megawatts or less but the total extent of the facility covers an area in excess of 1 hectare;...	Not Applicable	LA1 of LN2 applies and is included in the application
2	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a non-renewable resource where...	Not Applicable	
3	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the slaughter of animals with a...	Not Applicable	
4	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of animals in densities that exceed...	Not Applicable	
5	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the concentration of...	Not Applicable	
6	The development and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of...	Not Applicable	
7	The development and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of sea-based cage culture of...	Not Applicable	

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8	The development and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities...	Not Applicable	
9	The development of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of water or storm water – (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;...	Not Applicable	
10	The development and related operation of infrastructure exceeding 1 000 metres in length for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, wastewater, return water, industrial discharge or slimes – (i) with an internal diameter of 0,36 metres or more; or (ii) with a peak throughput of 120 litres per second or more;...	Not Applicable	
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity – (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;...	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
12	The development of – (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, exceeds 100 square metres; or	Not Applicable	LA14 in LN3 (relating to 10 m ² in an identified geographical area) applies and is included in the application.

	infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;...		
13	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water , including dams and reservoirs , with a combined capacity of 50 000 cubic metres or more,...	Not Applicable	
14	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or for the storage and handling, of a dangerous good , where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 80 cubic metres or more but not exceeding 500 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	
15	The development of structures in the coastal public property where the development footprint is bigger than 50 square metres,...	Not Applicable	
16	The development and related operation of facilities for the desalination of water with a design capacity to produce more than 100 cubic metres of treated water per day.	Not Applicable	
17		17(i) a - d to (iv) a - d are excluded	
17	Development – (v) if no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary , whichever is the greater in respect of – (a) fixed or floating jetties and slipways; (b) tidal pools; (c) embankments; (d) rock revetments or stabilising structures including stabilising walls; or (e) infrastructure or structures	Not Applicable	

	with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more...		
18	The planting of vegetation or placing of any material on dunes or exposed sand surfaces of more than 10 square metres, within the littoral active zone , for the purpose of preventing the free movement of sand, erosion or accretion,...	Not Applicable	
19	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;...	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
19A	The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from – (i) the seashore ;...	Not Applicable	
20		excluded	
21		excluded	
22	Doesn't exist		
23	The development of cemeteries of 2 500 square metres or more in size.	Not Applicable	
24		(i) excluded	
24	The development of a road – (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	Not Applicable	The cumulative distance of developed road wider than 8 m shall not exceed 1 kilometre.

	<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 – (a) which is identified and included in activity 27 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014; (b) where the entire road falls within an urban area; or (c) which is 1 kilometre or shorter.</p>		
25	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage with a daily throughput capacity of more than 2 000 cubic metres but less than 15 000 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	The cumulative daily throughput capacity shall not be more than 2 000 cubic metres or 2 000 000 litres.
26	Residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments of 1 000 square metres or more, on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes; ...	Not Applicable	
27	The clearance of an area of 1 hectares or more, but less than 20 hectares of indigenous vegetation, except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for...	Not Applicable	LA15 in LN2 (relating to 20 ha or more) applies and is included in the application.
28	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...	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
29		excluded	
30		excluded	
31		excluded	
32		excluded	

33	The underground gasification of 300 kilograms or more coal per day, including any associated operation.	Not Applicable	
34		excluded	
35	The expansion of residential, retail, recreational, tourism, commercial or institutional developments on land previously used for mining or heavy industrial purposes , where the increased development footprint will exceed 1 000 square meters;...	Not Applicable	
36	The expansion of facilities or structures for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where – (i) the electricity output will be increased by 10 megawatts or more, excluding where such expansion takes place on the original development footprint; or (ii) regardless the increased output of the facility, the development footprint will be expanded by 1 hectare or more;	Not Applicable	LA1 of LN2 (relating to “development”) applies and is included in the application
37	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the generation of electricity from a non-renewable resource where...	Not Applicable	
38	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the slaughter of animals where the daily product throughput will be increased by more than...	Not Applicable	
39	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of animals in densities that will exceed...	Not Applicable	
40	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the concentration of poultry , excluding chicks younger than 20 days, where the capacity of the facility will be increased by...	Not Applicable	

41	The expansion and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of...	Not Applicable	
42	The expansion and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of sea-based cage culture ...	Not Applicable	
43	The expansion and related operation of hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities outside industrial complexes, where the development footprint of the hatcheries or agri-industrial facilities will be increased by 2 000 square metres or more.	Not Applicable	
44	The expansion of cemeteries by 2 500 square metres or more.	Not Applicable	
45	The expansion of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of water or storm water where the existing infrastructure...	Not Applicable	
46	The expansion and related operation of infrastructure for the bulk transportation of sewage, effluent, process water, wastewater, return water, industrial discharge or slimes where the existing infrastructure...	Not Applicable	
47	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where the expanded capacity will exceed 275 kilovolts and the development footprint will increase.	Not Applicable	LA11 of LN1 (relating to “development”) applies and is included in the application
48	The expansion of – (i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or (ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.

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	square metres or more;		
49	Doesn't exist		
50	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the off-stream storage of water, including dams and reservoirs , where the combined capacity will be increased by 50 000 cubic metres or more.	Not Applicable	
51	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the storage, or storage and handling, of a dangerous good , where the capacity of such storage facility will be expanded by more than 80 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	
52	The expansion of structures in the coastal public property where the development footprint will be increased by more than 50 square metres, excluding such expansions within existing ports or harbours where there will be no increase in the development footprint of the port or harbour and excluding activities listed in activity 23 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies.	Not Applicable	
53	The expansion and related operation of facilities for the desalination of water where the design capacity will be expanded to produce an additional 100 cubic metres or more of treated water per day.	Not Applicable	
54		(i) a – d to (v) a – d is excluded	
54	The expansion of facilities – (v) if no development setback exists, within a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary , whichever is the greater;	Not Applicable	
55		excluded	
56	The widening of a road by more than 6 metres, or the	Not Applicable	There are no existing roads wider

	lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre (i) where the existing reserve is wider than 13,5 meters; or (ii) where no reserve exists, where the existing road is wider than 8 metres; ...		than 8 m in the study area.
57	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the treatment of effluent, wastewater or sewage where the capacity will be increased by 15 000 cubic metres or more per day and the development footprint will increase by 1 000 square meters or more.	Not Applicable	No existing facilities for the treatment of effluent in the study area.
58	The increase of the amount of coal gasified underground , where any such increase exceeds 300 kg per day, including any associated operation.	Not Applicable	
59	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the refining, extraction or processing of gas, oil or petroleum products where the installed capacity of the facility will be increased by 50 cubic metres or more per day, excluding facilities for the refining, extraction or processing of gas from landfill sites.	Not Applicable	
60	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of dangerous goods...	Not Applicable	
61		excluded	
62	Doesn't exist		
63	The expansion of facilities or infrastructure for the transfer of water from and to or between any combination of the following...	Not Applicable	
64		excluded	

65		excluded	
66	The expansion of a dam where...	Not Applicable	
66A	The expansion and related operation of hydraulic fracturing ,...	Not Applicable	
67	Phased activities for all activities...	Not Applicable	
LISTING NOTICE 2			
1		excluded	
2		excluded	
3		excluded	
4		excluded	
5	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the processing of a petroleum resource , including the beneficiation or refining of gas, oil or petroleum products with an installed capacity of 50 cubic metres or more per day,...	Not Applicable	
6		excluded	
7	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the bulk transportation of dangerous goods ...	Not Applicable	
8		(i) is excluded	
8	The development of – (ii) runways or aircraft landing strips longer than 1,4 kilometres.	Not Applicable	

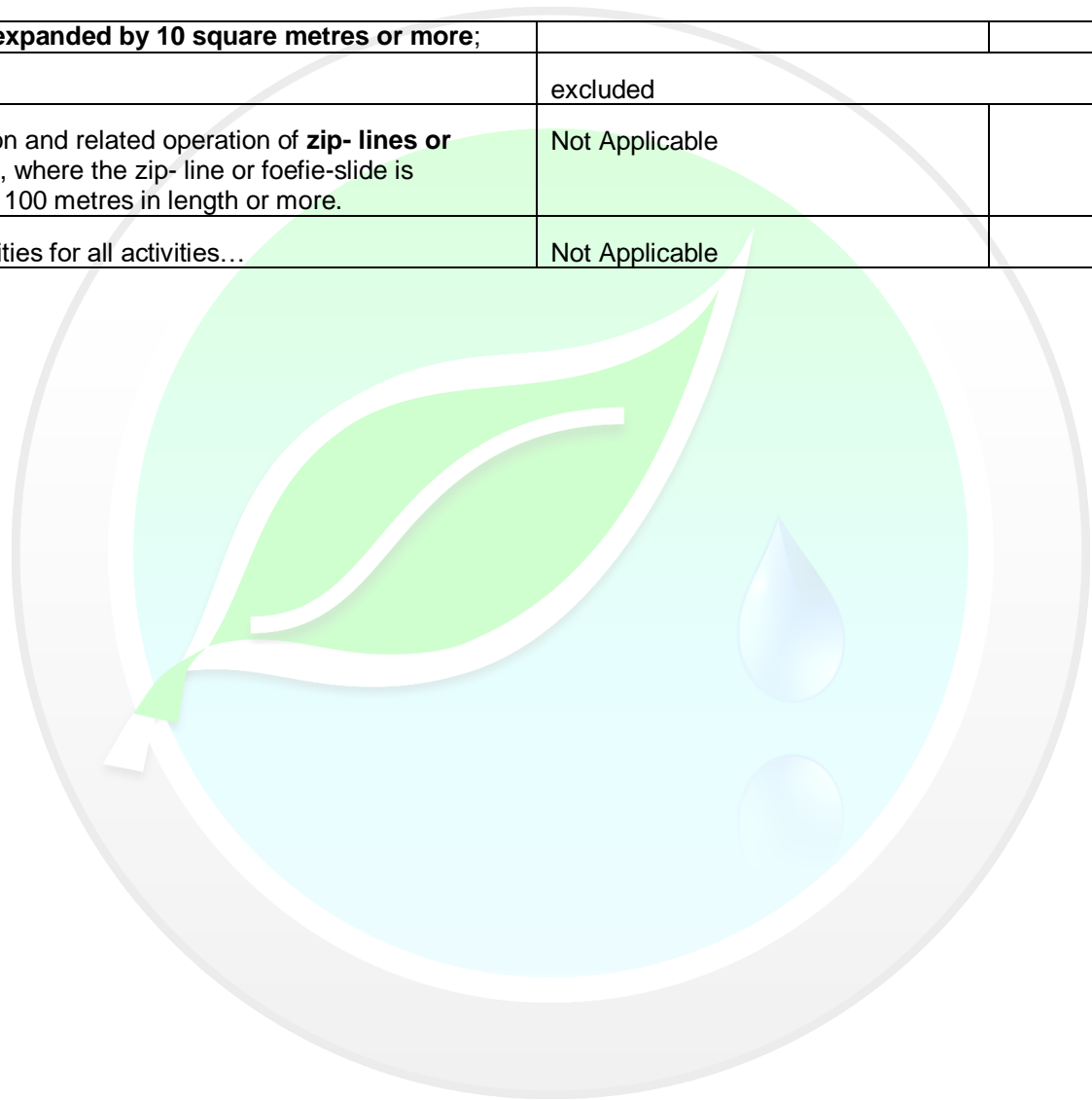
9		excluded
10		excluded
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transfer of 50 000 cubic metres or more water per day , from and to or between any combination of the following...	Not Applicable
12		excluded
13	The physical alteration of virgin soil to agriculture, or afforestation for the purposes of commercial tree, timber or wood production of 100 hectares or more.	Not Applicable
14		excluded
15		excluded
16	The development of a dam where the highest part of the dam wall, as measured from the outside toe of the wall to the highest part of the wall, is 5 metres or higher or where the high-water mark of the dam covers an area of 10 hectares or more.	Not Applicable
17		excluded
18		excluded
19		excluded
20		excluded
21		excluded
22		excluded
23		excluded

24		excluded	
25		excluded	
26		excluded	
27	The development of a road (i) [a national road as defined in section 40 of the South African National Roads Agency Limited and National Roads Act, 1998 (Act No. 7 of 1998);] ... (ii) [a road administered by a provincial authority;]	Not Applicable	
27		(iii) is excluded	
28	Doesn't exist.		
29	The expansion and related operation of facilities for nuclear reaction including energy generation, the production, enrichment, processing, reprocessing, storage or disposal of nuclear fuels, radioactive products, nuclear waste or radioactive waste.	Not Applicable	
LISTING NOTICE 3			
1	The development of billboards exceeding 18 square metres in size outside urban areas, mining areas or industrial complexes.	Not Applicable	
2	The development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	The study area is not in an identified geographical area.
3	The development of masts or towers of any material or type used for telecommunication broadcasting or radio transmission purposes where the mast or tower...	Not Applicable	
4	The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres.	Not Applicable	The study area is not in an identified geographical area.

5	The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleep less than 15 people.	Not Applicable	
6	The development of resorts, lodges, hotels, tourism or hospitality facilities that sleeps 15 people or more.	Not Applicable	
7		excluded	
8		excluded	
9	The development and related operation of zip-lines or foefie-slides exceeding 100 metres in length.	Not Applicable	
10	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or 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.	Not Applicable	As long as any fuel storage tanks are not developed within 100 m from the edge of a watercourse or wetland this activity cannot be triggered.
11		excluded	
12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation except where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.	Not Applicable	LA15 in LN2 (relating to 20 ha or more) applies and is included in the application.
13		excluded	
14	The development of – (i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.

15	The transformation of land bigger than 1000 square metres in size, to residential, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use, where, such land was zoned open space, conservation or had an equivalent zoning , on or after 02 August 2010.	Not Applicable	Land is zoned as Agriculture
16	The expansion of reservoirs, excluding dams, where the capacity will be increased by more than 250 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	No existing reservoirs will be expanded
17	The expansion of a resort, lodge, hotel, tourism or hospitality facilities where the development footprint will be expanded and the expanded facility can accommodate an additional 15 people or more.	Not Applicable	This activity is included in the application.
18	The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.		
19	The expansion of runways or aircraft landing strips where the expanded runways or aircraft landing strips will be longer than 1,4 kilometres in length.	Not Applicable	
20		excluded	
21		excluded	
22	The expansion and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good , where such storage facilities or infrastructure will be expanded by 30 cubic metres or more but no more than 80 cubic metres.	Not Applicable	No existing storage facilities within the study area
23	The expansion of – (i) dams or weirs where the dam or weir is expanded by 10 square metres or more; or (ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical	Not Applicable	The study area is not in an identified geographical area.

	footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;		
24		excluded	
25	The expansion and related operation of zip- lines or foefie-slides , where the zip- line or foefie-slide is expanded by 100 metres in length or more.	Not Applicable	
26	Phased activities for all activities...	Not Applicable	



MEMBERS: J.A. Bowers (M Tech, Pr.Sci.Nat.) & S.D. MacGregor (M.Sc., Pr.Sci.Nat.)
 Reg: 2006/023163/23



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167

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PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Farnsworth

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated 21 July 2022 and received by the Department on 22 July 2022, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the PoSEIA dated April 2022 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

(a) Listed Activities

- i. The EAP is urged to revisit the applicable listed activities. The Department **reiterates to ensure that all the relevant listed activities are applied for**, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. The application form indicates that "Existing dirt roads in and within 32 m of a watercourse will be expanded by more than 100 square metres". You are required to consider the applicability of the following listed activities, *inter-alia*, Listing Notice 1, Activity 12, Listing Notice 1, Activity 24, and Listing Notice 1, Activity 56.

- ii. Please ensure that the applicable listed activities must be final and confirmed during the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment phase.
- iii. When listing a listed activity, you are required to be specific on the sub-listing. The threshold of the listed activities including sub-listing must be provided. The EIAR must assess the correct sub listed activity for each listed activity applied for.
- iv. Please ensure that you refrain from the use of the words such as, *are expected, potentially, will most likely, etc* when describing the listed activities. Listed activities are not based on a precautionary approach. The EAP/Applicant must be certain why listed activities are being triggered to enable the competent authority to apply its mind to all the assessed listed activities during decision making. **The description of the listed activities must be brief and straight to the point.**
- v. Under section 5: Project description of the application form, the EAP must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- vi. Please refer to the table below that summarises al the issues raised above on how listed activities are applied for in the application form. An amended application form must be submitted in this regard.

<p><u>Listing Notice 3, Item 23:</u> <i>The expansion of—</i> <i>(ii) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 10 square metres or more;</i> <i>where such expansion occurs—</i> <i>(a) within a watercourse;</i> <i>b. Free State</i> <i>i. Outside urban areas:</i> <i>(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 reserve; or</i></p>	<p>An existing internal access road within drainage regions will be expanded by 55m². In addition, the facility is located 5km from the Nielsview Nature Reserve, a protected area in terms of NEMPAA.</p>
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(b) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the relevant Provincial Departments, SANRAL, Local Municipalities, the District Municipalities, the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), SANParks, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department Transport and Public Works – Roads, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- (ii) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All

comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.

- (iii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments (**including all objections**) received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity **are adequately addressed in the final EIAR**. Comments made by adjacent farm owners must be adequately responded to. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(c) Alternatives

The final SR indicates that “*there are no alternatives other than the preferred alternative site and no-go option*”. This is noted, however, please ensure that through the motivation, the decision maker must be able to follow the argument as to which alternatives was scoped out of the process and why.

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities. Coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system.
- (ii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible, e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - a) The envisioned area for the solar facility and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - b) All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, control room, and buildings, including accommodation etc.
 - c) All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes, the onsite substation and internal power lines.
 - d) All existing infrastructure on the site, especially internal road infrastructure or power lines.
- (iii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site, e.g. CBAs, protected areas, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - b) Buffer areas; and
 - c) All “no-go” areas.
- (iv) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

(e) Specialist assessments

- (i) The final EIAR and all the attached specialist studies must indicate and adequately assess a consistent capacity.

- (ii) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - a) A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.
 - b) Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - c) Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - d) Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Department's definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - e) **All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.**
 - f) Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - g) Regarding cumulative impacts:
 - Clearly defined cumulative impacts and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - A detailed process flow to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology used in the process.
 - The significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.
- (iii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.

(f) **General**

- (i) The final EIAR must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions, please refer to Annexure 2 as an example.
- (ii) The applicant's name reflected as Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd must be used throughout the reporting. No other applicant names can be used interchangeably.
- (iii) The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road and associated infrastructure is to be located.
- (iv) A construction and operational phase EMP that includes mitigation and monitoring measures must be submitted with the final EIAR.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, regarding the time allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully

Ms Milicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Letter signed by: Mr Wayne Hector
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 02/09/22

cc:	Jean Paul de Villiers	Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd.	Email: jp.devilliers@soventix.com
	Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape: DALRRD	Email: BFisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Isak Visser	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Email: visser@emthanjeni.co.za

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Annexure 2: A sample of technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	
Area of PV Array	
Number of inverters required	
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations	
Capacity of on-site substation	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Area occupied by buildings	
Length of internal roads	
Width of internal roads	
Proximity to grid connection	
Height of fencing	
Type of fencing	



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: + 27 86 625 1042

Reference: Phase 3 400MW PV

Enquiries: Ms M Rabothata/Ms. T Sekonko

Telephone: (012) 399 9174 **E-mail:** MRabothata@environment.gov.za

Ms Shannon Farnsworth
Ecoleges Environmental
P.O Box 516
MACHADODORP
1170

Telephone Number: (+ 27) 72 654 8202
Email Address: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Farnsworth

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the draft report.

Based on the information provided in the report, the study area is not within a National Protected Area Expansion Strategy (NPAES) and the location of the proposed Solar PV development will be within mostly low sensitive habitat.

Therefore, the plan of study for the EIA, that describes how the EIA phase will proceed, including detailed specialist studies required to be undertaken to assess the significance of those impacts identified within the scoping study, must be considered and submitted for review. As a result, development may proceed with the next phase.

In conclusion, please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of **Mr Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 04/08/2022



Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Tuesday October 04, 2022
Page No: 1

Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 9005
NELSPRUIT
1200

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 400MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development (600 ha) will include the construction of solar panels, inverters, transformers, on-site substation, 66 to 132KV overhead distribution line, construction camp and laydown area, rack foundations, pylon footings, underground cables, water pipes, roads, fire break and fencing posts, borrow pit, water tanks and deionization plant(s), two track access roads, existing roads to be upgraded and road crossings, fencing, and waste water system.

Natura Viva CC and APelser Archaeological Consulting were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Site Sensitivity Verification Report (in terms of Part A of the Assessment Protocols Published in GN 320 On 20 March 2020). Proposed Development of a 400 Mw Solar Photovoltaic Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goedehoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover,



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Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the potentially fossiliferous sediments of the Adelaide Subgroup, however based on recent fieldwork (2021 and 2022) conducted in the development area, no high sensitivity fossil sites are located within the proposed development area. The Adelaide Formation is intersected by unfossiliferous igneous rocks, and largely covered by Pleistocene to recent alluvial deposits. Fossils identified include breccia with bone and wood fragments, invertebrate burrows, and reworked silicified wood fragments of low heritage significance. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Pelser, A. 2022. A Report on a Phase 1 Archaeological & Heritage Impact Assessment related to the Development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and Associated (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

It is noted that large sections of the development footprint could not be surveyed due to heavy unseasonal rainfall. It is also noted that several heritage resources were identified as part of previous assessments conducted in 2017 and 2021, while additional sites were identified as part of the 2022 field assessment.

A total of 31 heritage resources were identified as part of the 2022 field assessment. These include open air surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of low to medium heritage significance, a stone built kraal and stone cairn of low heritage significance, and stone cairns of medium to high heritage significance that may be markers along the old wagon road linking historical farmsteads.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Detailed mapping of the Stone Age sites to determine their extents; and
- Surface collection of material to obtain a representative sample of Stone Age material and types to determine the age of the material and sites;
- Desktop Research on the age, origin and function of the road;
- Detailed mapping and photographic recording of the section of the road located in the development footprint;
- Preserving a section of the possible road located within the development footprint and the erection of

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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
Tel: 021 462 4502
Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Tuesday October 04, 2022
Page No: 3

Information Signage on the history of the road;

- All of the above recommended work must be completed by an appropriately qualified heritage specialist;
- A Chance Find Procedure must be implemented.

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit requests the HIA be revised to include the following:

- To clarify if the previously identified heritage resources have been included in the discussion of identified heritage resources;
- A map of all heritage resources located within the development area, which must include previously identified heritage resources (this is not clear in the submitted HIA);
- Clear descriptions of each site with clear significance ratings per site;
- An assessment of the impact of the development on all of the identified heritage resources.

SAHRA will provide further comments upon receipt of a revised HIA and the Draft EIA report inclusive of all appendices.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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Email: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 17965

Date: Tuesday October 04, 2022
Page No: 4

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/592717>



Enquiries : Ms. O. J. Gill

Reference : L9.8.21.R

Ms. S. Farnsworth
2 Generaal Street
MACHADODORP
1170

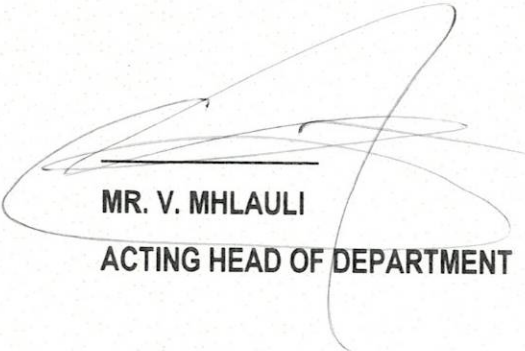
Attention: Ms. S. Farnsworth

**RE: APPLICATIONS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION (EA) AND WATER USE
AUTHORISATION (WUA) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV)
FACILITY (PHASE 3) OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR AND HANOVER,
EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KA SEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN
CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.**

This office hereby acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 18 February 2022 received on the 16 March 2022. (copy of letter attached for ease of reference).

Please be informed that the Department has no objections regarding the Application for an Environmental Authorisation (EA) and Water Use Authorisation (WUA) for the development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) of farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar and Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

For further enquiries please contact Ms M. Kgomongwe on 053-836 5618 or email mkgomongwe@ncpg.gov.za


MR. V. MHLAULI
ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

12.04.2022

DATE



agriculture, land reform
& rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Deeds Registration Office

DeedsWEB

Property Report

Farm Enquiry

General Information

Date Requested 2022-03-31
Deed Office Kimberly
Information Source Deed Office

Property Details

Deeds registry KIMBERLEY
Property type FARM
Farm name GOEDE HOOP
Farm number 26
Portion 0 (REMAINING EXTENT)
Province NORTHERN CAPE
Registration division/Administrative district HANOVER RD
Local authority EMTHANJENI MUNISIPALITEIT
Previous description -
Diagram deed number COQ4-39/1839
Extent 1502.8325 H
LPI Code C03000000000002600000

Deeds Title Details

#	Document	Registration Date	Purchase Date	Amount (R)
1	T48840/2013CTN	20130913	20120210	R5516603.31

Owner Information

#	Document	Full name	Identity Number	Share
1	T48840/2013CTN	DE BAD FAMILIE TRUST	IT54/2012(E)	-

Endorsements/Encumbrances

#	Endorsement	Holder	Amount (R)	Microfilm Reference
1	B18037/2016CTN	FIRSTRAND BANK LTD	R4000000.00	-
2	B29320/2015CTN	FIRSTRAND BANK LTD	R6000000.00	-
3	B630/2020	FIRSTRAND BANK LTD	R1000000.00	20200722 11:42:04
4	K206/1997SCTN	-	-	-
5	K983/1982SCTN	-	-	-
6	CONVERTED FROM CTN	-	-	-
7	FARM HN 26	-	-	-
8	PTN'S HN RD 26/1-2	-	-	-

Historic Documents

#	Document	Holder	Amount (R)	Image Reference
1	B18966/1999CTN	-	-	-
2	B18967/1999CTN	-	-	-
3	B25874/2013CTN	-	-	-
4	VA4440/96-862/55TCTN	-	-	-
5	B10761/2009CTN	-	-	-

Historic Documents

#	Document	Holder	Amount (R)	Image Reference
6	B29014/2014CTN	-	-	-
7	T862/1955CTN	PREISS & KOCK PTY LTD	-	-
8	T9552/2000CTN	W J RETIEF TESTAMENTERE TRUST	R3168300.00	-
9	T9552/2000CTN	W J RETIEF TRUST	R3168300.00	-
10	T48839/2013CTN	RETIEF WILLEM JACOBUS	VESTING	-

Disclaimer:

The Office of the Chief Registrar of Deeds hereby confirms that, on the basis of information at the Deeds Office's disposal that the contents of this report accurately reflects property information held in our records. As per Deeds Registration process, this information is valid for seven (7) days.

Photocopies of this report are not valid.

This report is issued subject to costs as specified in the fee schedule. <http://deeds.dalrdd.gov.za/fees.php>

Printed: 2022-03-31





OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL LAND CLAIMS COMMISSIONER: NORTHERN CAPE

Hyesco Arcade, 4-8 Old Main Road, Kimberley, 8300 | PO Box 2458, Kimberley, 8300
Tel: (053) 807 5700 | Fax: (053) 831 6501

Enquiries: **Natashia Romain**

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
No. 3 Generaal Street
Machadodorp (eNtokozweni)
1170
Email: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

Dear Mr / Ms

LAND CLAIMS ENQUIRY

1. Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C
2. Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C
3. Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C
4. Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C
5. Remainder of Farm Kwanselaarshoek 40C
6. Portion 1 of Farm Kwanselaarshoek 40C
7. Portion 2 of Farm Kwanselaarshoek 40C
8. Portion 4 of Farm Taaibosch Fontein 41C

We refer to your letter received: **17 August 2022**.

We confirm that as at the date of this letter no land claims appear on our database in respect of the above-mentioned Properties. This includes the database for claims lodged by 31 December 1998; and those lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014.

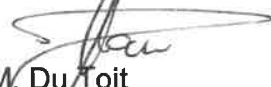
Whilst the Commission takes reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the information it provides, there are various factors that are beyond the Commission's control, particularly relating to claims that have lodged but not yet been gazetted such as:

1. Some Claimants referred to properties they claim dispossession of rights in land against using historical property descriptions which may not match the current property description; and
2. Some Claimants provided the geographic descriptions of the land they claim without mentioning the particular actual property description they claim dispossession of rights in land against.

The Commission therefore does not accept any liability whatsoever if through the process of further investigation of claims it is found that there is in fact a land claim in respect of the above property.

If you are aware of any change in the description of the above property after 19 June 1913 kindly supply us with such description so as to enable us to do a further search.

Yours faithfully



Dr. M. Du Toit

Chief Director: Land Restitution Support-Northern Cape

Date: 19/08/2022





forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2167

Enquiries: Ms Millicent Solomons

Telephone: (012) 399 9382 E-mail: Msolomons@dffe.gov.za

Ms Shannon Farnsworth
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 516
MACHADODORP
1170

Telephone Number: ((082) 451 5608
Cell Number: (072) 654 8202
Email Address: shannon@ecoleges.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Farnsworth

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 400 MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY (PHASE 3) ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C AND PORTION 3 OF FARM GOEDE HOOP 26C, BETWEEN DE AAR & HANOVER, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The amended Application for Environmental Authorisation and draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) received by the Department on 10 November 2022, respectively, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final EIAR:

1. Listed Activities

- i. You are required to revisit Section 5: Project description of the application form. The technical details provided are noted, however, these must be combined. The technical details for the entire development must be put in one table that describes the entire development. This is not a phased development so the proposed development must be described in its entirety. Please use Annexure 1 below to complete the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.
- ii. The listed activities to be applied for must be final. Listed activities must not be included based on precautionary scenarios or approaches.
- iii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- iv. The final EIAR must also provide the technical details for the proposed facility in table format as well as their description and/or dimensions.

- v. It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of numerous activities listed in Listing Notice 3, particularly for activities impacting on areas in the Province's Conservation Plans. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities and submitted to this Department.

2. **Public Participation Process**

- i. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the relevant Provincial Departments, SANRAL, Local Municipality, the District Municipality, Water and Sanitation, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), SANParks, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department Transport and Public Works – Roads, and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation.
- ii. A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format. All comments from I&APs must be responded to adequately. A response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually. The dates in which comments were received must be recorded in the C&R. Your responses to the issues raised by the Department must be included in the comments and response (C&R) report, in table format.
- iii. The final EIAR must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA). The final EIAR must address all comments received on the SR and the draft EIAR, including this letter.
- iv. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

3. **Cumulative Assessment**

Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:

- Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
- The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed or not.

4. **Specialist Declaration of Interest**

- i. Please ensure that a copy of the layout map must be submitted with the final report. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - (a) The location of the BESS (if applicable), PV facility and associated infrastructure;
 - (b) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);

- (c) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - (d) Buffer areas; and
 - (e) All "no-go" areas.
 - (f) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- ii. Google maps will not be accepted.
 - iii. Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final EIAR. You are therefore requested to submit original signed Specialist Declaration of Interest forms for each specialist study conducted. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).
 - iv. Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative.

5. Undertaking of an Oath

- i. Please note that the final EIAR must have an undertaking under oath/ affirmation by the EAP.
- ii. Based on the above, you are therefore required to include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP (administered by a Commissioner of Oaths) as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that the EIAR must include:
"an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
 - a) *the correctness of the information provided in the reports;*
 - b) *the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;*
 - c) *the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant; and*
 - d) *any information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties"*.

6. Details and Expertise of the EAP

Please ensure that the Final EIAR includes the details and expertise of the EAP, including a curriculum vitae, to comply with the requirements of Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

7. Environmental Management Programme

- i. It is drawn to your attention that for overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such activities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report. Please take note of Part B Section 2 of the Generic EMPR requirement which states that:
"This section must be submitted to the CA together with the final BAR or EIAR. The information submitted to the CA will be incomplete should a signed copy of Part B: section 2 not be submitted. Once approved, this Section forms part of the EMPr for the development and is legally binding."

The generic EMPr submitted with the Draft EIAR was not signed. Please ensure that **signed versions** of the Generic EMPrs for the substation and powerline are submitted with the final EIAR.

- ii. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIAR and the specialist studies conducted must be included in the final EIAR.
- iii. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- iv. In addition to the above, the EMPr must comply with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

8. **General**

- i. **When uploading reports via the online system, the appendices must correspond with the relevant reports and must be clearly labelled for easy reference.** If, for example, Appendix 2: Background Information Document and Proof of Delivery, then Appendix 2 must be labelled as such and only contain the relevant reports/documents.
- ii. Please ensure that the applicant's name reflected as Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd., must be used throughout the reporting. No other applicant names can be used interchangeably.
- iii. The EAP must provide landowner consent for all farm portions affected by the proposed project, whether the project component is linear or not, i.e. all farm portions where the access road, wind turbines and associated infrastructure is to be located.

The EIAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities. Coordinates must be provided in degrees, minutes and seconds using the Hartebeesthoek94 WGS84 co-ordinate system as specified in the 2014 NEMA Regulations, as amended .

Please also ensure that the final EIAR includes the period for which the Environmental Authorisation is required and the date on which the activity will be concluded as per Appendix 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 23(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority -*

(a) an environmental impact assessment report inclusive of any specialist reports, and an EMPr, which must have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the EIAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 23(1)(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: *"The applicant must within 106 days of the acceptance of the scoping report submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the reports, and an EMPr, will be submitted within 156 days of acceptance of the scoping report by the competent authority, or where regulation 21(2) applies, within 156 days of receipt of application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the environmental impact assessment report or EMPr, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in sub-regulation (1)(a) and that the revised environmental impact assessment report or EMPr will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days"*.

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 23 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Ms Milicent Solomons

Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Date: 07/12/2022.

cc:	Jean Paul de Villiers	Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd.	Email: jp.devilliers@soventix.com
	Bryan Fisher	Northern Cape: DALRRD	Email: BFisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Isak Visser	Emthanjeni Local Municipality	Email: visser@emthanjeni.co.za

Annexure 1: Technical details for the proposed facility

Component	Description / dimensions
Height of PV panels	
Area of PV Array	
Number of inverters required	
Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations	
Capacity of on-site substation	
Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas	
Area occupied by buildings	
Site Access: Length of internal roads Width of internal roads	
Electrical infrastructure compound	
Temporary laydown area 8Ha	
Proximity to grid connection	
Fenced area	
Total development footprint	



forestry, fisheries
& the environment

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

Private Bag X447 PRETORIA 0001 Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA
Tel(+27 12) 399 9000

Enquiries: Devinagie Bendeman Telephone: 012 399 9337 E-mail: vbendeman@dffe.gov.za

Ms. Milicent Solomons
Director: Prioritised Infrastructure Projects

Dear Ms. Solomons

**APPOINTMENT AS ACTING CHIEF DIRECTOR: INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD 01 NOVEMBER 2022 – 16 DECEMBER 2022**

I hereby inform you that I have decided to appoint you as Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations, for the period of 01 November 2022 – 16 December 2022 whilst Mr Sabelo Malaza is fulfilling his temporary reassignment function at the Forestry Branch.

All the correspondence and other documents that are usually signed by the Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorizations must be signed under Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations during the above-mentioned period.

Your appointment in the above acting position remains subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation No. 103 of 1994), as amended, the Government Employees Pension Fund Act, 1996 (Proclamation No. 21 of 1996), the regulations promulgated under these Acts and relevant circulars.

In the execution of your duties and the exercising of the powers delegated to you, you will furthermore be subjected to the provisions of the Public Finance Management Act, compliance with the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, the Minimum Information Security Standard, Departmental Policies and other applicable legislations with the Republic of South Africa. You are therefore advised to make yourself familiar with the provisions of these legislations and policies and the amendments thereof. (Copies of Departmental policies can be obtained from the Human Resource Office).

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for all your assistance on behalf of the department.

Yours sincerely

Ms. Devinagie Bendeman
Deputy Director-General: RCSM (Regulatory Compliance and
Sector Monitoring)

Date: 31 October 2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I ACCEPT / ~~DO NOT ACCEPT~~
appointment as Acting Chief
Director: Integrated Environmental
Authorisations

Signed:

Date: 31/10/2022.

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
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Enquiries: Natasha Higgitt
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CaseID: 17965

Date: Friday December 09, 2022
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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Mr Shaun Macgregor
Ecoleges Environmental Consultants
PO Box 9005
NELSPRUIT
1200

The development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Ecoleges Environmental Consultants has been appointed by Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed 400MW Solar PV Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development (600 ha) will include the construction of solar panels, inverters, transformers, on-site substation, 66 to 132KV overhead distribution line, construction camp and laydown area, rack foundations, pylon footings, underground cables, water pipes, roads, fire break and fencing posts, borrow pit, water tanks and deionization plant(s), two track access roads, existing roads to be upgraded and road crossings, fencing, and waste water system.

Natura Viva CC and APelser Archaeological Consulting were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Almond, J. E. 2022. Site Sensitivity Verification Report (in terms of Part A of the Assessment Protocols Published in GN 320 On 20 March 2020). Proposed Development of a 400 Mw Solar Photovoltaic Facility on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and Portion 3 of Farm Goedehoop 26C, between De Aar & Hanover,



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Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

The proposed development footprint is underlain by the potentially fossiliferous sediments of the Adelaide Subgroup, however based on recent fieldwork (2021 and 2022) conducted in the development area, no high sensitivity fossil sites are located within the proposed development area. Fossils identified include breccia with bone and wood fragments, invertebrate burrows, and reworked silicified wood fragments of low heritage significance. A Chance Fossil Finds Procedure is recommended to be followed.

Pelser, A. 2022. A Report on a Phase 1 Archaeological & Heritage Impact Assessment related to the Development of a 400 MW Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facility and Associated (Phase 3) on the Remainder of Farm Goede Hoop 26C, Portion 3 of Farm Goede Hoop 26C and other properties, between De Aar & Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, South Africa.

It is noted that large sections of the development footprint could not be surveyed due to heavy unseasonal rainfall. It is also noted that several heritage resources were identified as part of previous assessments conducted in 2017 and 2021, while additional sites were identified as part of the 2022 field assessment.

A total of 31 heritage resources were identified as part of the 2022 field assessment. These include open air surface scatters of Stone Age lithics of low to medium heritage significance, a stone built kraal and stone cairn of low heritage significance, and stone cairns of medium to high heritage significance that may be markers along the old wagon road linking historical farmsteads.

Recommendations provided in the report include the following:

- Detailed mapping of the Stone Age sites to determine their extents; and
- Surface collection of material to obtain a representative sample of Stone Age material and types to determine the age of the material and sites;
- Desktop Research on the age, origin and function of the road;
- Detailed mapping and photographic recording of the section of the road located in the development footprint;
- Preserving a section of the possible road located within the development footprint and the erection of Information Signage on the history of the road;
- All of the above recommended work must be completed by an appropriately qualified heritage

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- specialist;
- A Chance Find Procedure must be implemented.

In an Interim Comment issued on the 04/10/2022, SAHRA requested that the HIA be revised to include a discussion on previously identified heritage resources. Since the issuing of the Interim Comment, a revised HIA has been submitted (10/11/2022). The revised HIA provided the requested information regarding previously identified heritage resources.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- Permits in terms of section 35 of the NHRA must be applied for from SAHRA for the collection of archaeological material prior to construction. No construction may commence without a permit in this regard;
- All mapping data of sites must be provided to SAHRA prior to construction;
- A buffer of 30 m must be adhered to around the wagon road (points 19 -25). A report containing the research, recording, mapping and further recommendations for the road must be submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to construction;
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Natasha Higgitt/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/ Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

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- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/592717>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.