



MEETING NOTES

.JOB TITLE	Eskom Komati Power Station Solar PV ESIA and WULA
PROJECT NUMBER	41103965
DATE	06 July 2022
TIME	09h00
VENUE	MS Teams
SUBJECT	DFFE Pre-application Meeting
CLIENT	Eskom Holdings SOC Limited
PRESENT	Tutayi Chifadza (TC) – WSP Matilda Mbazo (MM) – WSP Justice Ramagoma (JR) – Eskom Warren Funston (WF) – Eskom Mpho Muswubi (MMs) – Eskom Deidre Herbst (DH) – Eskom Coenrad Agenbach (CA) – DFFE Muhammad Essop (ME) – DFFE Trisha Rene Pillay (TP) – DFFE
APOLOGIES	Ashlea Strong (AS) WSP Megan Govender (MG) WSP

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www.wsp.com \\corp.pbwan.net\za\Central_Data\Projects\41100xx\41103965 - Eskom Komati PV ESIA and WULA\00 PMO\05-Project Management\08-Communication\03-Minutes\DFFE Pre-application Meeting\41103965_Eskom Komati PV BESS_DFFE Pre-app Meeting Minutes_12Jul2022_Final.docx

MEETING NOTES

MATTERS ARISING	ACTION
<p>NOTE: These notes constitute a summary of the key discussion points and decisions made during the discussion. They are not intended to reflect the exact discussions held.</p>	
<p>1.0 INTRODUCTIONS The attendees introduced themselves, starting with the WSP team. JR requested recording of meeting for minute taking and TP started the recording.</p>	
<p>2.0 PROJECT PRESENTATION Following the introductions, TP gave the floor to TC to proceed with the presentation of the proposed Solar Photovoltaics (PV) and Battery Energy Storage Facility. TC presented the project which covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Project Background; – Typical Infrastructure (Solar Energy Facility (SEF), BESS and Associated Infrastructure); – Project Phases; – Environmental Authorisation Process; – Specialist Studies; – Public Participation Plan; – Timeframes; and – Clarification Questions. <p>TC highlighted the following key issues during the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Solar PV locations (A and B) as well as the four BESS locations were not to be considered as alternatives but are all proposed to be developed to attain the required capacity output. – Although a portion of PV site B was identified to fall within a critical biodiversity area (CBA), particularly CBA 2 as per the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, surrounding anthropogenic activities such as the Goedehoop Colliery to the northwest, residential communities to the east and farming activity to the south renders the CBA unlikely to meet biodiversity targets for species and ecosystems and ecological processes. – The Project Area does not fall within any Strategic Transmission Corridors or Renewable Energy Development Zones. – Project will be conducted to meet the World Bank Group’s (WBG) Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) for lending purposes over and above the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) requirements. – DFFE Screening Tool was used to identify theme sensitivities and thus define the specialist studies to be undertaken. – Additional specialist studies are to be undertaken to support the WBG’s ESF requirements as well as support the Water Use Licence Application (WULA). – Highlighted that the project is not yet a strategic infrastructure project (SIP), however, Eskom are in the application process with the project expected to be gazetted as a SIP by November 2022. A revised application form will be submitted to the DFFE when this occurs. 	WSP
<p>3.0 CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS TC indicated that Eskom is proposing to add a wind energy facility (up to 100MW) within the same footprint to the SEF. It was indicated that this will be a separate application owing to the timeframes required for 12-month pre-construction monitoring on bats and avifauna studies. There was no comment from the DFFE. TC indicated that there is a decommissioning component to the project being undertaken by another consultant (Nemai Consulting) and asked if it would be beneficial to have the same case officer on both projects. ME wanted to clarification on why this would be beneficial. TC and DH indicated that the potential overlaps of the project, although standalone, would be made easier if one case officer was used, however, this was not a must and would be left to the DFFE’s discretion. ME indicated that an internal discussion would be held within the DFFE, however, suggested that it would be unlikely with communication to be encouraged amongst the two separate case officers.</p>	All

MEETING NOTES

<p>TC indicated that the project is still in the Design Phase and asked what level of detail would be required for the motivation for the triggering of listing notices and if ranges could be used for the Scoping Phase. ME indicated the ranges would be suitable for the scoping phase, however, specific thresholds would be required for the EIA phase.</p>	
<p>4.0 DISCUSSION</p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether the wind facility would be on the same footprint and if so, if there will be sufficient space for both the PV and wind turbines. DH indicated that the VPC report compiled as part of the feasibility assessments took into consideration the environmental and technical aspects that showed that there will be sufficient space for the wind turbines if they are along the edge of the site from a concept phase. This would be revised later when the application process for the wind project commences.</p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether Eskom is developing the project themselves. DH confirmed that Eskom would develop the project using funding from the WBG.</p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether all the specialist studies identified by the screening tool were accounted for. TC illustrated how each identified sensitivity theme would be covered by a specific study and also showed the additional studies required by the WBG as well as for the WULA.</p> <p>ME wanted clarification on whether the proposed specialists are registered in their respective fields. TC indicated that all specialists (internal and sub-contractors) appointed are registered as required in their fields. ME indicated that specialists would need to follow the protocols as identified in the screening tool.</p> <p>CA wanted clarification on whether two different reports would be developed to cover for NEMA and the WBG requirements. TC indicated that the preliminary ESIA report for the WBG would be repurposed into a scoping report although the current format would be sufficient for NEMA requirements. CA highlighted that this could create an issue for the project although more information is always welcomed in informing their decision making. DH acknowledge the risk for setting a precedence for future projects meeting reporting requirements that are more onerous. However, there was already a great deal of interest regarding how the social impact would be addressed, this is likely to be a more extensive social study. DH indicated that it would be prudent to wait until the end of scoping to determine whether or not the information should be separated. CA affirmed this response.</p> <p>ME requested that site sensitivity information be included in the scoping report with motivations provided for why specialist studies are conducted or not for each sensitivity theme. TC affirmed that this would be done when reporting.</p>	WSP
<p>5.0 WAY FORWARD</p> <p>DFFE to conduct internal discussion and review decision on assigning one case officer on both projects.</p> <p>WSP to prepare application and begin with scoping report to initiate application process.</p>	DFFE WSP

APPENDIX A

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE APPLICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT THE KOMATI POWER STATION, MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (Eskom) proposes to establish a solar energy generating facility at the Komati Power Station. The proposed Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities will be developed on farm Komati Power Station No 56 IS in Ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, located within the Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province. The proposed Solar PV, BESS and associated infrastructure require an Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of National Environmental Management Act, Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), associated Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 as amended and Water Use Licence (WUL) in terms of National Water Act, Act 36 of 1998 (NWA) respectively. Due to the nature of the project thresholds, Eskom is required to follow a Scoping & EIA process and Water Use licence Application (WULA) to acquire the necessary authorisations prior to the commencement of the proposed project. In addition to South African Legislation, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be undertaken in terms of the World Bank Group (WBG) requirements. This will be aligned to the requirements of the World Bank Environmental & Social Framework; relevant WBG Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG); the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standards; and Good International Industry Practices (GIIP).

The project will be divided into three phases:

- Phase 1: Preliminary ESIA for submission to the World Bank;
- Phase 2: Scoping Phase in terms of in terms of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations, to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE); and
- Phase 3: ESIA Phase in terms of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations as amended, and WBG Requirements, to the DFFE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR PRELIMINARY ESIA PHASE

Extensive stakeholder engagement has been undertaken by Eskom and Urban Econ for the Shutdown and Repurposing of Eskom Power Stations to notify Ward Councillors, Ward Committee Members and acknowledged representatives from various community groups who would be impacted by the shutdown of their Hendrina, Grootvlei, and Komati Power Stations which are approaching the end of their operational life.

WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd (WSP) will formally announce the commencement of the S&ESIA Process for the Application of an EA for the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS Facilities at Komati Power Station, and request Interested and Affected Parties to register their interest in the project. **Table 1**, below provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement that will be undertaken during the preliminary ESIA Phase.

Table 1: Notification Methods

NOTIFICATION	PROPOSED ACTIVITIES
Notice will be given to the public by publishing newspaper adverts	Adverts will be published in in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu), formally announcing the commencement of the S&ESIA process, requesting I&APs to register their interest in the project.

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NOTIFICATION

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

<p>Notice will be given to the public by placing site notices at appropriate locations on site and in the surrounding area</p>	<p>Placement of site notices (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) at the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Komati Power Station Entrance – Boundary/access road to the Solar PV Site A and B – Blinkplan Police Station; – OK Foods Super Market; – Komati Paypoint and Library; – Nkangala District Municipality Office; – Gerard Sekoto Library; – Eastdene Public Library; and – Hendrina Public Library. <p>The notices will formally announce the commencement of the S&ESIA process, requesting I&APs to register their interest in the project.</p>
<p>Notice will be given to I&APs registered on existing databases</p>	<p>Stakeholder databases have been generated from the stakeholder engagement process undertaken by Eskom and Urban Econ for the Shutdown and Repurposing of Eskom Power Stations. These databases will be used to formally announcing the commencement of the S&ESIA process, requesting I&APs to register their interest in the project.</p>
<p>Focus group meetings</p>	<p>A focus group meetings will be held at Komati Power Station for community leaders and stakeholder forums for discussion on the proposed establishment of a Solar PV and BESS Facility at Komati Power Station. Comments and concerns raised during this meeting will be noted for inclusion in the Preliminary ESIA Report.</p>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR S&ESIA PHASE

The following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), to cater for the facilitation of the public participation process (PPP). The PPP includes I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders and all other parties that may have interest on this project.

This plan is developed for the Scoping & ESIA process applicable to the application for an environmental authorisation (EA) for the proposed establishment of a solar electricity generating facility consisting of solar photovoltaic (PV), battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station in Mpumalanga Province.

According to Section (2)(4)(f) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA), the participation of all I&APs must be promoted and all potential I&APs must be informed early and in an informative and proactive way regarding applications that may affect their lives or livelihood in order to give effect to the above sections, and that it is essential to ensure that there is adequate and appropriate opportunity for public participation in decisions that may affect the environment.

Table 2, below, provides the competent authority with the detailed process of the public participation process that will be undertaken during the project.

The existing Komati Power Station I&AP database will also be utilised for this S&ESIA process, due to its inclusivity. I&APs will be provided with opportunity to review and make comments on the draft scoping and ESIA reports.

Table 2: Proposed Public Participation Plan

**SUMMARY OF PPP REQUIREMENT
(GNR 326 OF EIA REGULATIONS)**

PROPOSED PLAN/ACTIVITIES

<p>41(2) The person conducting a PPP must give notice to all potential I&APs by-</p> <p>(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—</p> <p>(i) the site where the activity to which the application or proposed application relates is or is to be undertaken; and</p> <p>(ii) any alternative site;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Placement of six (6) site notices (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) at appropriate locations on site and in the surrounding area. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report. — This will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Komati Power Station Entrance — Boundary/access road to the Solar PV Site A and B — Blinkplan Police Station; — OK Foods Super Market; — Komati Paypoint and Library; — Nkangala District Municipality Office; — Gerard Sekoto Library; — Eastdene Public Library; and — Hendrina Public Library. <p><i>This activity will be undertaken during the preliminary ESIA phase.</i></p>
<p>(b) giving written notice, in any of the manners provided for in section 47D of the Act, to—</p> <p>(i) 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 or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(ii) owners, persons in control of, and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the activity is or is to be undertaken and to any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken;</p> <p>(iii) 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;</p> <p>(iv) the municipality which has jurisdiction in the area;</p> <p>(v) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity; and</p> <p>(vi) any other party as required by the competent authority;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Written notification (in English, Afrikaans and isiZulu) will be sent to owners and occupiers on or adjacent to the proposed project site, municipality ward councillor, local and district municipality, and relevant state departments. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report. — General communication (written notification) with I&APs (public and government departments/authorities) throughout the S&ESIA Process. — All I&APs on the database will be notified of the project via email and SMS. This email will invite them to participate in S&ESIA process and will inform them of the public review period of the Draft Scoping and ESIA reports. — I&APs will be added to the database on request as the project progresses. — I&AP's already captured on Komati's I&AP database will also be used.
<p>(c) placing an advertisement in—</p> <p>(i) one local newspaper; or</p> <p>(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;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Adverts will be published in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu), formally announcing the commencement of the S&ESIA process, requesting I&APs to register their interest in the project. Proof of placement will be included in the Final Scoping Report. <p><i>This activity will be undertaken during the preliminary ESIA phase.</i></p>

**SUMMARY OF PPP REQUIREMENT
(GNR 326 OF EIA REGULATIONS)**

PROPOSED PLAN/ACTIVITIES

<p>(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 is or will be undertaken</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The project does not extend beyond the boundaries of the District Municipality and therefore the use of provincial / national newspapers are not required. — Adverts will be published in two newspapers, the Highvelder (in English and Afrikaans) and Witbank News (in in English and IsiZulu).
<p>(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—</p> <p>(i) illiteracy;</p> <p>(ii) disability; or</p> <p>(iii) any other disadvantage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — I&APs on the existing Komati Power Station I&AP database will be contacted either telephonically or via email to verify their contact details as well as their preferred method of communication. — The relevant ward councillor will be contacted to ensure that community-based organisations are aware of the Project and can assist in distributing and communicating relevant Project information to community members.
<p>(42) A proponent or applicant must ensure the opening and maintenance of a register of interested and affected parties and submit such a register to the competent authority,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — I&APs with a potential interest in the project will be identified at the outset of the project. — The I&AP database will be compiled to include all affected landowners and occupiers, adjacent landowners and occupiers, I&APs that formally registered during the previous EIA process, relevant authorities. As noted above, the existing database for Komati Power Station will be used as the basis of the register for this S&ESIA process. — All I&APs on the database will be notified of the project via email and SMS. The email and SMS will invite them to participate in the S&ESIA process and will inform them of the public review period of the draft Scoping and ESIA Reports. — All I&APs identified will be registered on the project database, and the database will be maintained throughout the S&ESIA process.
<p>(43) & (44) Registered Interested and affected parties (I&APs) must be given 30 days to comment on the draft Report</p>	<p>The Draft Scoping and EIA Reports will be made available to all I&APs for a 30-day comment period. Strict adherence to all COVID-19 protocols and regulations as well as best practice measures will be ensured throughout PPP.</p> <p>The reports will be made available at the following places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Komati Paypoint and Library; — Komati Power Station – Security Office; — Gerard Sekoto Library; — Eastdene Public Library; and — Hendrina Public Library; and — Online on the WSP website. <p>A Stakeholder Engagement Register will be generated for inclusion in Final Scoping and ESIA Reports for consideration by the competent authority.</p> <p>An open day public meeting will be held at Komati Power Station during the Scoping Phase and additional focus group meetings will be held during the ESIA Phase if requested.</p>
<p>(44) (2) The applicant must, in writing, within 14 days of the date of the decision on the application ensure that—</p>	<p>Written notification of the decision on the EAs will be sent to all registered I&APs, Registered I&APs will be informed of the appeal procedure as well as advised that copies of the EA decisions will be provided on request.</p>



**SUMMARY OF PPP REQUIREMENT
(GNR 326 OF EIA REGULATIONS)**

PROPOSED PLAN/ACTIVITIES

(a) all registered interested and affected parties are provided with access to the decision and the reasons for such decision; and

(b) the attention of all registered interested and affected parties is drawn to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, if such appeal is available in the circumstances of the decision.

APPENDIX B

MEETING PRESENTATION



DFFE Pre- Application Meeting

Eskom Komati Power Station
Solar PV and BESS Facilities



Agenda

- 1 Introduction
Introductions
- 2 Overview of Project
Project Background
Typical Infrastructure
- 3 Overview & Confirmation of Permitting Processes
Project Phases
Environmental Authorisation Process
Specialist Studies
Public Participation Plan
Timeframes
- 5 Discussion
Specific Clarification
Questions and Comments

Introductions

Applicant **Eskom Holdings SOC (Ltd)**
Deidre Herbst (Environmental Manager: Generation)
Justice Ramagoma (Chief Advisor: Environmental Management)
Mpho Muswabi (Senior Environmental Advisor)
Warren Funston (Middle Manager)

EAP **WSP Group Africa (Pty) Ltd**
Tutayi Chifadza

Authority **Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)**
Muhammad Essop
Trisha Pillay

Interested EAP **Nemai Consulting**
Nicky Naidoo



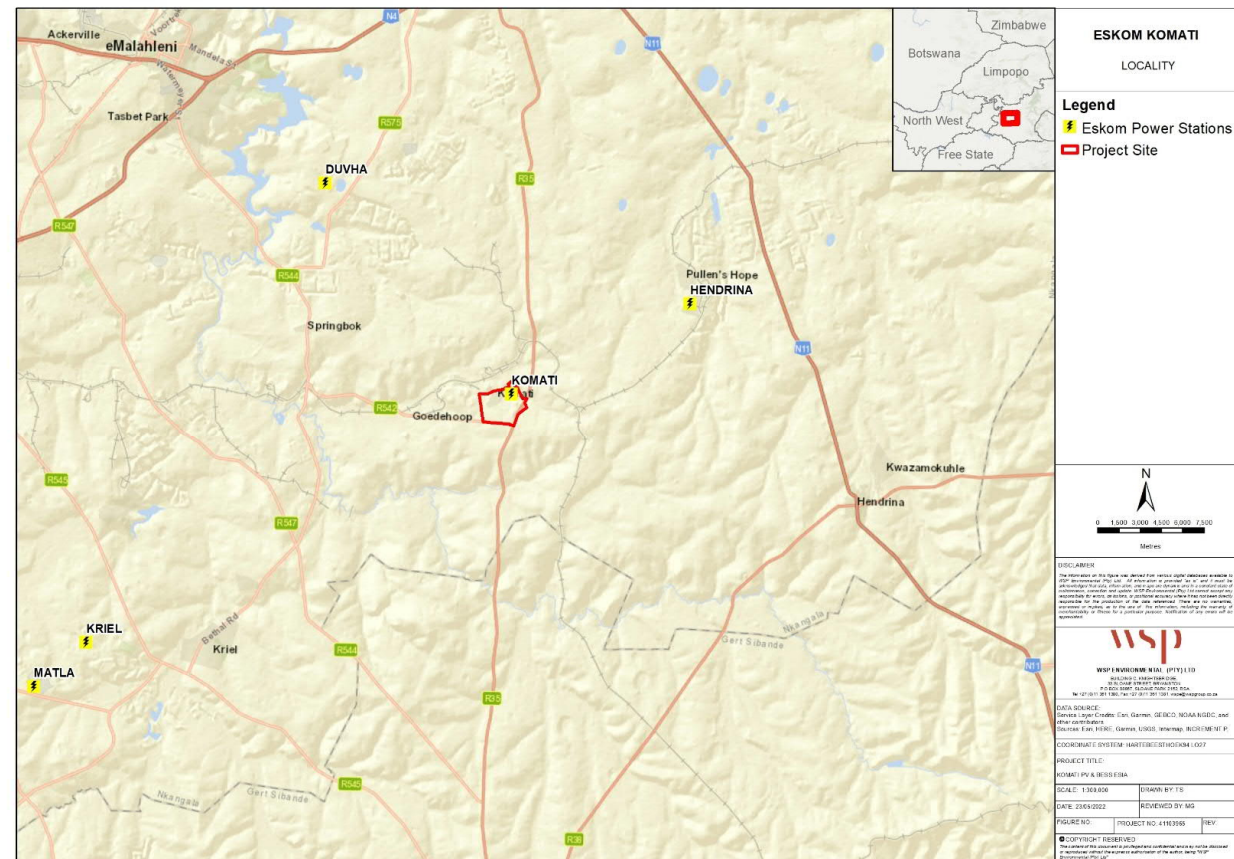
Background

- Komati Power Station is situated in Mpumalanga Province
- End of Life - September 2022
- Just Energy Transition Plan - mitigating negative impacts resulting from the shut down
- Solar energy facility (SEF) including Solar Photovoltaics (PV) energy facility, Wind energy facility (WEF) as well as Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities



Location

- Komati Power Station:
 - 37km from Middelburg
 - 43km from Bethal
 - 40km from Witbank
- Ward 4 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, within the Nkangala District Municipality.
- Land owned by Eskom



Overview of the Project



Typical Infrastructure

- Key infrastructure:
 - SEF;
 - Site Substation and BESS; and
 - Associated infrastructure

Typical Infrastructure

○SEF:

- Total site area: 200 - 250 Ha
- Solar PV Panels: 72 Ha
- Total capacity of 100 MW

	SOLAR PV SITE A	SOLAR PV SITE B
Extent	156 Ha	54 Ha
Buildable Area	127 Ha	50 Ha
Capacity	71.5 MW	28.5 MW

Typical Infrastructure

○ BESS:

- Four BESS facilities
- Footprint: 2 Ha - 6 Ha
- Storage: 150 MW
- Lithium Battery Technologies

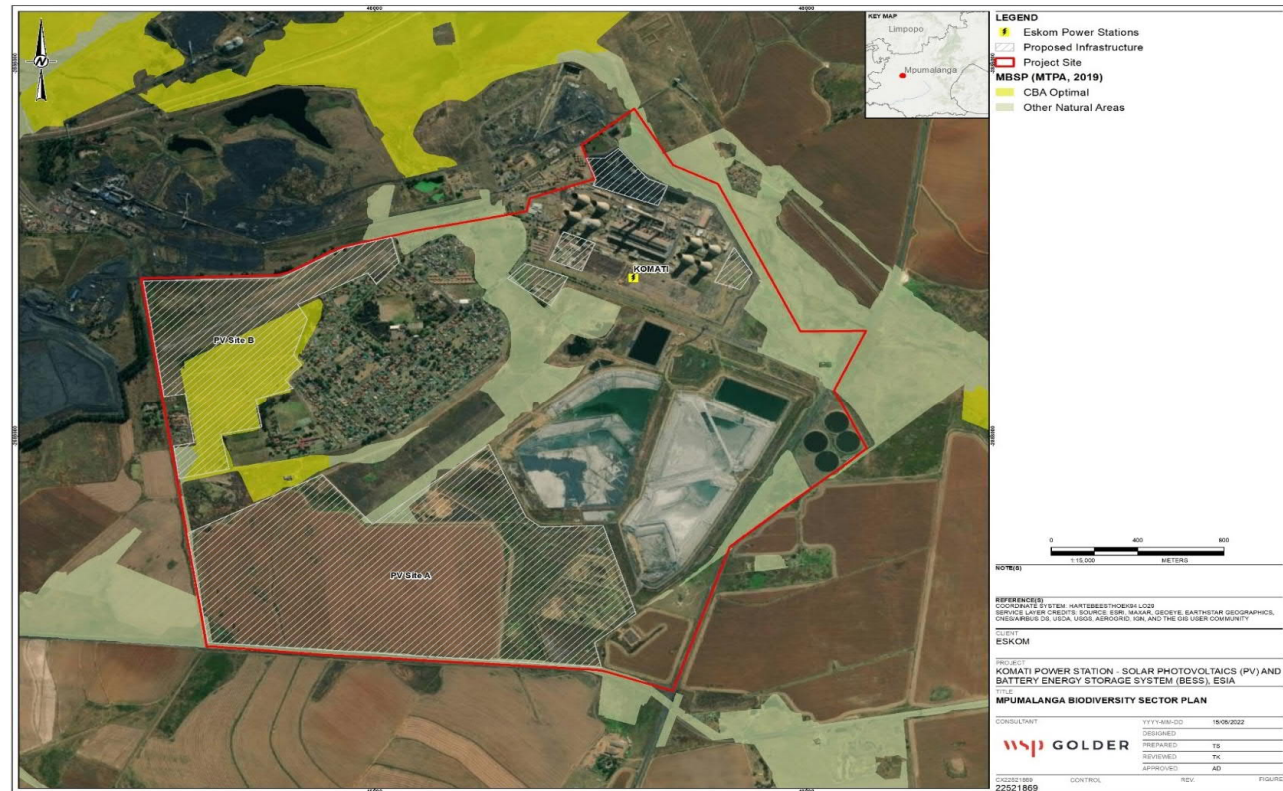
Typical Infrastructure

○ Associated Infrastructure:

- Access roads;
- Perimeter roads;
- Below ground electrical cables;
- Above ground overhead lines;
- Meteorological Station;
- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Building (Control room, server room, security equipment room, offices, boardroom, kitchen, and ablution facilities);
- Spares Warehouse and Workshop;
- Hazardous Chemical Store;
- Security Building;
- Parking areas and roads;
- Temporary laydown areas;
- Temporary concrete batching plant;
- Construction camps; and
- Onsite substations.

Key Considerations

- The general project area falls within a Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBA).
- The area is mapped as 'CBA 2" by the Mpumalanga Biodiversity Sector Plan, 2019
- The CBA within which the proposed PV Site B is situated is bordered by the Goedehoop Colliery operations on the north and west, and a residential area on the east and farmlands on the south, all of which encompass Heavily or Moderately Modified Areas. Thus the level of anthropogenic disturbance renders the CBA unlikely to meet biodiversity targets for species and ecosystems and ecological processes.
- The Project Area does not fall within any Strategic Transmission Corridors or Renewable Energy Development Zones.



Project Phases

- Undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to meet the requirements of the World Bank Group Environmental and Social Framework.
- To satisfy the WB requirements the EIA will go over and above the NEMA requirements.
- The project will be divided into three phases:
 - Phase 1: Preliminary ESIA (for submission to the WB);
 - Phase 2: Scoping Phase in terms of in terms of the NEMA 2014 EIA Regulations; and
 - Phase 3: EIA Phase and WULA

Environmental Authorisation Process

- Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) Processes:
 - SEF (100MW)
 - BESS (150MW)

- Water Use Licence
 - Water use Licences and/or General Authorisations will be applied for as required

Listed Activities - Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p>Activity 11(i)</p> <p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity—</p> <p>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts</p>	<p>The Komati Solar PV facility will require either a 132 KV or 275 KV powerline to transmit power to the BESS facilities. The transmission lines are outside of the urban edge.</p>
<p>Activity 12(ii)</p> <p>The development of -</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p>	<p>Internal access roads will be required for access to the Facility. The physical footprint of internal access roads and electrical cabling required to connect the various components of the Facilities will either traverse the delineated watercourses on site, or be located within 32m of the outer extent of the delineated watercourses on site.</p>
<p>Activity 14</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The proposed BESS facilities will potentially result in the handling of between 80 and 500 cubic metres of dangerous goods.</p> <p>This activity will only be applicable in the event that the BESS facilities are assembled on site. This is currently unknown.</p>

Listed Activities - Listing Notice 1

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
Activity 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.	The proposed infrastructure, with specific reference to access roads and the grid infrastructure, may require the removal of soil more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse.
Activity 24 (ii) The development of a road— (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.	The proposed access roads for the Solar facility will potentially be 8 metres wide.

Listed Activities – Listing Notice 2

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p>Activity 1 The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs — (a) within an urban area.</p>	<p>The proposed solar generating facility will generate 100 MW of electricity from a renewable resource.</p>
<p>Activity 15(ii) The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation. (ii) with a reserve wider than 13,5 meters, or where no reserve exists where the road is wider than 8 metres.</p>	<p>The proposed solar generating facilities will require the clearance of vegetation between 200 and 250 ha.</p>

Listed Activities - Listing Notice 3

Listed Activity	Description of Project Activity
<p>Activity 4 The development of a road wider than 4 metres with a reserve less than 13,5 metres. f. Mpumalanga i. Outside urban areas (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The proposed access roads for the Solar facility will potentially be wider than 4 metres but less than 13.5 metres within a critical biodiversity area (CBA).</p>
<p>Activity 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. f. Mpumalanga i. Outside urban areas (ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The proposed BESS facilities will potentially result in the handling of between 80 and 500 cubic metres of dangerous goods. This activity will only be applicable in the event that the BESS facilities are assembled on site. This is currently unknown.</p>
<p>Activity 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. f. Mpumalanga ii. Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans.</p>	<p>The total footprint to be cleared is between 200 and 250 ha, the CBA portion is located within Solar Site B. The exact footprint will be determined during the ESIA process through the biodiversity impact study.</p>

DFFE Screening Tool Identified Sensitivities

THEME	VERY HIGH SENSITIVITY	HIGH SENSITIVITY	MEDIUM SENSITIVITY	LOW SENSITIVITY
Agricultural Theme		✓		
Animal Species Theme		✓		
Aquatic Biodiversity Theme	✓			
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Theme				✓
Avian Theme				✓
Civil Aviation (Solar PV) Theme			✓	
Defence Theme				✓
Landscape (Solar) Theme	✓			
Palaeontology Theme	✓			
Plant Species Theme			✓	
RFI Theme			✓	
Terrestrial Biodiversity Theme	✓			

Specialist Studies Identified to be Included

SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT	COMMENT
Soils and Agricultural Potential Assessment	A soils and land capability survey will be undertaken.
Visual Impact Assessment	The projects could potentially negatively impact sensitive visual receptors. A Visual Impact Assessment will therefore be undertaken.
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	An Archaeological and Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	A Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be undertaken.
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	The projects could negatively affect CBA. A Terrestrial Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken. This assessment will include both fauna and flora aspects.
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	An Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment will be undertaken.
Socio-Economic Assessment	A Socio-Economic Assessment will be undertaken

Specialist Studies Commissioned

ASSESSMENT	NAME OF SPECIALIST	COMPANY
Air Quality Specialist	Kirsten Collet	WSP
Avifauna Specialist	Megan Diamond	Feathers Environmental
★ Contaminated Land Specialist	Adam Sanderson	WSP
Ecology Specialist	Andrew Zinn and Aisling Dower	WSP
Groundwater Specialist	Sarah Skinner	WSP
Heritage Specialist	Anton Pelser	A Pelser Archaeological Consulting
Noise Specialist	Kirsten Collet	WSP
Palaeontology Specialist	Heidi Fourie	Independent Consultant
★ Social Specialist	Stephen Horak	WSP
Soil Specialist	Zakariya Nakhooda	WSP
Surface Water Specialist	Eugeshin Naidoo	WSP
Traffic Specialist	Nico Jonker	Innovative Transport Solutions (Pty) Ltd
Visual Specialist	Lourens du Plessis	LOGIS
Wetland & Aquatic Specialist	Bradley Graves	WSP

Competent Authority

- Section 24C(2)(a) of NEMA
 - The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity has implications for international environmental commitments or relations
- Section 24C(2)(d)(iii) of NEMA
 - The Minister must be identified as the Competent Authority (CA) if the activity is undertaken by a statutory body, excluding any municipality, performing an exclusive competence of the national sphere of government
- GN 779 of 01 July 2016
 - Identifies the Minister as the CA for the consideration and processing of environmental authorisations and amendments thereto for activities related the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) 2010 - 2030
- DFFE is therefore deemed to be the Competent Authority

Public Participation Plan

Activities Completed

- Formally announce project via:
 - Adverts (English, Afrikaans and Zulu in local newspaper)
 - Site notices
 - Utilising existing stakeholder databases
- Hold focus group meeting

Activities to be undertaken

- Compilation and management of I&AP Database
- Written notification:
 - Owners adjacent to the proposed project site
 - Municipality Ward Councillor
 - District Municipality
 - Relevant State Departments
- Hold public meeting during Scoping Phase
- Hold focus group meetings with vulnerable groups as per the WBG requirements
- Advertisement for review of Draft Reports Review for 30 days

Timeframes

○ Authority Timeframes

- Does not fall within a Strategic Transmission Corridor (GN 113)
- Does not fall within a REDZ (GN 114)
- Authority decision making timeframe is 107 days
- Eskom currently working on attaining a SIP letter which will be submitted to the DFFE once the JETP is gazetted (anticipated in November 2022)

○ Key Milestones:

- Submission of Application Forms - August 2022
- Draft Scoping Report Public Review - August 2022
- Submission of Final Scoping Reports - October 2022
- Draft EIA Report Public Review - January 2023
- Submission of Final EIA Report - March 2023

○ Specific Clarification

- Eskom is proposing to add a wind energy facility (up to 100 MW) within the same footprint of the SEF. This will be a separate application.
- There is a decommissioning component to the project being undertaken by another consultant (Nemai Consulting). Would it be beneficial to have the same case officer?
- The project is still in the Design Phase. What level of detail is required for the motivation for the triggering of listing notices? Can ranges be used for the Scoping Phase?

Discussion

- Questions
- Way Forward





Thank you



wsp.com

Chifadza, Tutayi

From: Trisha Rene Pillay <tpillay@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 02 August 2022 11:02
To: Chifadza, Tutayi
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach; Govender, Megan; Muhammad Essop
Subject: RE: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good Morning Tutayi,

The minutes are accepted and you can move forward submitting your application for review. Apologies for the delay in response.

Kind Regards,

Ms. Trisha Pillay
Environmental Officer: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001
(083) 650 5511
tpillay@dffe.gov.za



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

From: Chifadza, Tutayi <Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com>
Sent: Monday, 01 August 2022 12:31
To: Trisha Rene Pillay <tpillay@dffe.gov.za>
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach <CAGENBACH@dffe.gov.za>; Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good day,

I'm following up on the approval of the minutes of the pre-application meeting we held on 6 July. I have reattached them to this email for easy reference and we also appended the public participation plan to the minutes.

Regards,



Tutayi Chifadza
Principal Consultant
Pr Sci Nat

T 011 361 1390
M +27 73 770-1635

From: Chifadza, Tutayi
Sent: Tuesday, 12 July 2022 08:02
To: Trisha Rene Pillay <tpillay@dfffe.gov.za>
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach <CAGENBACH@dfffe.gov.za>; Govender, Megan <Megan.Govender@wsp.com>
Subject: RE: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good day,

Well received. Please find the attached final version of meeting minutes which includes the proposed public participation plan and the meeting presentation.

Regards,

Tutayi Chifadza Pr Sci Nat
Principal Consultant
WSP in Africa

T 011 361 1390
F +27 11 361 1301
M +27 73 770-1635

From: Trisha Rene Pillay <tpillay@dfffe.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 08 July 2022 11:55
To: Chifadza, Tutayi <Tutayi.Chifadza@wsp.com>
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach <CAGENBACH@dfffe.gov.za>
Subject: 2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Komati Power Station

Good Morning Mr. Chifadza,

Please find attached the transcript and the link to listen to the recording.

The Password to get access to the recording 2022-06-0013

[2022-06-0013 Pre-app meeting for Solar Photovoltaic \(PV\) Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System \(BESS\) Facilities and associated infrastructure at the Kom-20220706_090555-Meeting Recording.mp4](#)

Kind Regards,

Ms. Trisha Pillay
Environmental Officer: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
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