

Appendix E – Correspondence with Organs of State

Appendix E1 – DFFE

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2021 17:01
To: 'Chantal Engelbrecht'
Cc: 'Julliet Mahlangu'; 'Dr. Danie Smit'; 'Rhulani Kubayi'; 'Vusi Skosana'; Bernard de witt; Weyers Janse van Rensburg; 'EMaradwa@environment.gov.za'
Subject: RE: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear Chantal

Thank you very much for your response as per your email below. I appreciate your input particularly in point 3 of your mail where you suggest dating maps in the different reports and also providing a validity period for those listed/specified activities without an operational component.

I am using the Department's generic/pre-approved EMPs for the overhead powerline and substations, so the impact management actions and impact management outcomes should be adequately distinguished.

Just a note: When I sent the IQ Helpdesk the query email on 15 November 2021, I also sent a similar email to EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za (on the same day). I have not received any response from EIA Admin, as yet. I have also sent EIA Admin a request for feedback today. I originally sent the query to both the IQ Helpdesk and EIA Admin based on instruction received from the Department during the pre-application meeting. From your response, I understand that the onus lies with the Competent Authority (i.e. National Infrastructure Projects) to decide whether two EAs will be issued from the single application.

Nonetheless, thank you for the thought and time taken in responding to my query.

Vivienne Thomson



Environmental Assessment Practitioner

EnviroAfrica cc

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From: Chantal Engelbrecht <CENGELBRECHT@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2021 13:30
To: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Cc: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>; Vusi Skosana <VSKOSANA@dffe.gov.za>; Dr. Danie Smit <DSMIT@dffe.gov.za>; Rhulani Kubayi <RKubayi@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: RE: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear Vivienne

It is unclear what assistance you require from the IQ Helpdesk, since the matter appears to be one of implementation and not interpretation.

Vivienne Thomson

From: IQ <IQ@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 November 2021 08:55
To: Vivienne Thomson
Cc: Julliet Mahlangu; Vusi Skosana; Dr. Danie Smit; Rhulani Kubayi; EIAAdmin; Masingita Maluleke; Isaac Sebothoma
Subject: IQ/21/0299: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear All

Kindly note the reference no. for this query- IQ/21/0299.

Regards
Chantal Engelbrecht

From: Chantal Engelbrecht
Sent: Monday, 22 November 2021 13:30
To: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Cc: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>; Vusi Skosana <VSKOSANA@dffe.gov.za>; Dr. Danie Smit <DSMIT@dffe.gov.za>; Rhulani Kubayi <RKubayi@dffe.gov.za>
Subject: RE: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Dear Vivienne

It is unclear what assistance you require from the IQ Helpdesk, since the matter appears to be one of implementation and not interpretation.

The EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) is clear about the following -

1.
The EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) provides for the splitting of an environmental authorisation, as well as the issue of multiple EAs for an application where a single consolidated impact assessment process was followed.
2.
The EIA Regulations also do not prohibit the splitting of an EA after it has been issued, regardless of whether it has commenced or not.
3.
What is important is that where an EA is split -
 - The relevant EMPr must be split as well. It is advisable that EMPRs distinguishes between impact management actions and impact management outcomes.
 - Splitting current conditions – could be cloning or referring to specific conditions, depending on the specific scenario. The relevant competent authority must consider this.
 - It is important to clearly demarcate the geographic ambit of each required EA on a map. Date the map in the relevant reports to avoid confusion.
 - Consider providing a validity period for those listed or specified activities without an operational component.

You are advised to further liaise with the relevant officers copied above via EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za or the relevant e-mail addresses.

Regards
Chantal Engelbrecht

From: Vivienne Thomson [<mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>]

Sent: Monday, 22 November 2021 11:01

To: IQ <IQ@dffe.gov.za>

Cc: Chantal Engelbrecht <CENGELBRECHT@dffe.gov.za>; Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@dffe.gov.za>; Weyers Janse van Rensburg <weyers@kerenenergy.com>; Bernard de witt <bernard@enviroafrica.co.za>

Subject: FW: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Importance: High

Dear Madam/Sir

The email below refers. I am following-up as to whether there is any feedback/clarification regarding the query?

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



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From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>

Sent: Monday, 15 November 2021 23:24

To: 'IQ@environment.gov.za' <IQ@environment.gov.za>

Cc: 'CEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za' <CEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za>; 'JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za' <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>

Subject: FW: Query re. EIA Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Importance: High

Dear Madam/Sir

With reference to the attached letter, please advise regarding a query/request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection).

For ease of reference, Appendix 1 included in the full query letter is also attached as a separate file.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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15 November 2021

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EIA Applications (Integrated Environmental Authorisations)
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
0083

Email: IQ@environment.gov.za

Dear Competent Authority

re.: Request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

EnviroAfrica CC on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd intends to apply for environmental authorisation (EA) for the above project. A pre-application meeting with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) was held on 27 August 2021 (minutes attached as Appendix 1 of this letter). EnviroAfrica was advised by the DFFE to submit an enquiry regarding the issue detailed below to EIA Admin as well as the Interpretation and Queries Desk prior to submission of the EA application as per point 3 of Appendix 1 attached.

BACKGROUND:

The current/intended EA application i.e. Visserspan Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Grid Connection (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007), is to enable connection of four already authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities to the existing national/Eskom electricity grid. Visserspan Solar PV Facilities (Projects 1 to 4) will each produce between 75MW to 100MW of electricity and were individually bid in the recent Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) Bid Window 5. Even though none of the Visserspan bids were successful as preferred bidder in this round of bidding, the developer intends to establish the grid connection infrastructure to accommodate each of the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities'. It is intended to bid the four

Visserspan Solar PV Facilities in REIPPPP Bid Window 6 scheduled for the end of March 2022. In Bid Window 6, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy seeks to add another 4200MW of renewable energy to the national grid. Should one or more of the four Visserspan Solar PV bids be unsuccessful in Bid Window 6, they will be bid in future bidding windows.

The current/intended EA application for the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection entails permanent and temporary/construction infrastructure development. Permanent infrastructure development includes overhead power lines and substations (including offices, ablutions, storage buildings, transformers and pylons for overhead powerlines), as well as 4m to 8m wide (dirt) access roads/vehicle tracks where such roads do not already exist. Temporary/construction infrastructure includes two lay down areas, site offices, storage buildings, as well as a batching plant and stockpile yard. Construction ablutions would be provided by means of regularly serviced portable toilets and tanker trucks would supply water.

The Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection will accommodate all four solar PV facilities in a once-off construction process. Substation construction and overhead power lines will be strung for each solar PV facility on pylons erected during the once-off construction process. The substations are planned to be built on either 'end' of the overhead power line corridor on the Visserspan and Kinderdam farms, respectively, as per Appendix B of Appendix 1 attached. The entire grid connection corridor route and the substations will be fully assessed during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for the intended EA application.

As such, all environmental issues/negative environmental impacts will be identified and rated in terms of significance, with mitigation and management measures provided in the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection basic assessment report (BAR) and associated environmental management plan report (EMPr), enabling the Department to make an informed decision on the whole application.

CLARIFICATION REQUEST:

The current/intended single EA application consists of three main parts:

- i. the on-site Visserspan substation which is in essence divided into two functional portions i.e.
 - a. the Independent Power Producer (IPP) 'collector substation' portion where evacuated electricity from the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities will be collected and
 - b. the 'switching station' substation portion where the evacuated electricity will be stepped-up/transformed from either 22kV or 33kV, to 132kV;

- ii. the overhead (most likely 132kV) power lines strung on steel monopoles which will conduct electricity towards the point of connection with the national grid; and
- iii. the Kinderdam substation where the 132kV electricity conducted from the on-site substation will be stepped-up/transformed to 400kV enabling connection to the national grid via the 400kV Theseus-Perseus Eskom Overhead powerline.

As is common for these types of grid connection projects, the bulk of the permanent built infrastructure will be handed to Eskom once built. The future Eskom infrastructure includes portion i(b), ii and iii as listed above.

EnviroAfrica on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd would like to know if two EAs can be issued from the single Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection application (pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007) in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2)? One of the EAs would be issued to the IPP/Applicant (Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd) and the other to Eskom.

To make the potential 'splitting' of the EA application into two EAs easier, EnviroAfrica will be submitting four EMPs together with the single BAR for this application: One for the IPP portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the collector part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the switching station part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the overhead power lines and one for the future Eskom portion of the potential Kinderdam Substation.

Please advise what the Department's stance on the above request would be, or if further information is required from EnviroAfrica.

Yours sincerely,



Vivienne Thomson
Environmental Consultant
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**MINUTES OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETING
FOR VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV GRID CONNECTION
HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

PRESENT:

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) viz. Danie Smit - Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects (DS), Vusi Skosana - Director: National Infrastructure Projects (VS), Juliet (Jabulile) Mahlangu - Case Officer (JM);
EnviroAfrica/Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) viz. Vivienne Thomson (VT) and Bernard De Witt (BDW);
Keren Energy (Co-Developer/Applicant) viz. Weyers Janse van Rensburg (WJvR);
Mulio (Co-Developer/Bidder) viz. Ryan David-Andersen (RD); Warren Morse (WM); Andrew Pearson (AP).

1. WELCOME:

- i. DS introduced the DFFE team and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- ii. DS reminded the meeting that minutes must be sent for approval to the DFFE and included in the BAR and that all documentation is to be submitted electronically as per the DFFE's existing system.
- iii. VT requested that the meeting be recorded. The meeting gave consent to do so. WM from Mulilo recorded the meeting.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY:

Using satellite imagery of the preferred route, RD stated that:

- i. the entire grid connection is within both a REDZ and an EGI corridor.
- ii. there are four authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities but the application and EAs for the solar PV facilities did not include an on-site substation.
- iii. the current application includes a Visserspan/on-site substation (on Visserspan Solar PV Project 2) and a connection to the existing Eskom grid.
- iv. there are options for connection to the existing grid on the preferred route (preferred due to Eskom engagement, the CELs that were received for the project, landowner discussions and from a cost perspective).
- v. the proposed on-site substation is divided into two - an IPP substation which will step-up the power coming from approved PV projects from 33kV to 132kV before going into the second part of the substation which is an Eskom switching station (SS).
- vi. ultimately, only the IPP substation will belong to the applicant and the SS and power line infrastructure would be handed back to Eskom.
- vii. the options are in terms of the type of grid connection line to be used for tie-in to the Eskom grid i.e. the line could be a 132kv monopole line, or a 275 kV, or 400kV steel pylon line (to be finalised after discussions with Eskom).
- viii. if Eskom requires a 275kV or 400kV line then the second/Kinderdam substation would not be required.

WD confirmed the statement and added that:

- ix. the case of (viii) above, is called a double circuit line i.e. one tower with two conductors on either side which basically strings the conductor into the solar plant and back to the Eskom (grid) line again (two lines/conductors linked on the same structure).

RD stated that:

- x. option (ix) above is more expensive.
- xi. the potential alternative route is still in the process of being negotiated with a potential competitor, Mainstream, since they have several solar PV facilities around Eskom's Perseus substation and two collector substations to the south of Visserspan. Perhaps servitude rights for the potential alternate route and a link into Mainstream's collector substation could be negotiated. RD stated that an email had been sent to Mainstream but no response had been received as yet.

VT requested that, for purposes of the meeting, focus be given to the issues requiring clarification as per the agenda (Appendix A, attached as page 5) and that the various alternatives and possible power line options, once finalised/semi-finalised with Eskom, will be discussed in the draft BAR to be considered by the DFFE. RD handed the meeting to VT.

VT provided context in terms of the affected properties (Appendix B, attached as page 6):

- xii. from west to east on the image in Appendix 2 the affected farms are – Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685. Kinderdam Farm contains the existing Eskom 400kV and 275kV powerline servitude
- xiii. the three farms, adjacent to Visserspan, through which the proposed development runs belong to the same farmer who owns all properties immediately surrounding the grid connection corridor once it leaves Visserspan Farm No. 40.
- xiv. the precautionary principle was applied, taking worst case scenario into account in terms of the proposed development footprint - the impact would be assessed in terms of two substations – one on Visserspan Farm (just over approximately 7ha footprint) and the other on Kinderdam Farm (approximately 6ha footprint) and a 55m wide corridor for the powerline connection (using worst case scenario impact from a 400kV overhead powerline with steel pylons)
- xv. the approach in (xiv) above was used so that if a smaller kV line or if only one substation was eventually developed the impacts would have been assessed since the worst case scenario/largest footprint would have been used.
- xvi. the specialists and EAP assessed areas wider than just the corridor/development footprint and alternative routes (indicated in white in Appendix 2 and as per earlier discussion)

ISSUES FOR CLARIFICATION in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application (DFFE clarification response highlighted in yellow):

- 3 **Issue raised:** Due to part of the infrastructure being handed back to Eskom, would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (one in the name of the IPP/Applicant and one in the name of Eskom) as per EIA Regulations 11 and 25(2)?

Meeting discussion: VT mentioned that the entire development will be assessed fully in the EIA process but that a fair portion of the development will get handed back to Eskom which is why the request is being made.

VS stated that Regulation 11 and 25(2) does allow one bigger EIA with two EAs being issued. Yes, two EAs can be issued from one application. VS agreed with VT that all the issues/negative environmental impacts must be identified on both [EA] sides and they must be assessed and mitigation measures or alternatives must be provided before a decision could be issued. So while it is possible, the DFFE is not going to confirm it in this pre-application meeting until such time the interpretation query (IQ) officials are consulted so that an official response may be given. VS further stated that problems arise when the Applicant requests a splitting of the decision/EA after it has been issued. The DFFE often finds that where the split has to take place not all the negative impacts have been assessed.

VT asked if the request for the issuing of two EAs must form part of the DBAR narrative, or if it should be mentioned in a cover letter accompanying (but separate to) the DBAR? DS said that the request must be separate but should be sent to the DFFE IQ up front before the DBAR and application is submitted. The EAP must send in a request to EIA Admin and IQ detailing the request with a map, before submission of the DBAR so that the issue may be decided upon.

AP mentioned that he agreed with VS and that the intention this request is to avoid the need for asking for a split after the EA is issued.

DFFE Response: This issue must be fully assessed by the DFFE's IQ officials so that the Department can take a firm position on it and provide an official response.

4. **Issue raised:** Since part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment (AIA) during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process, could the same specialist be used and only an addendum to the original report be undertaken to assess and incorporate the areas not assessed in the Visserspan Solar PV development? This will save the project time and cost.

Meeting discussion: DS mentioned that if it is the same specialist as used for the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities AIA then an addendum incorporating the new areas impacted would be acceptable.

VS concurred with DS.

DFFE Response: Yes - an addendum by the same specialist to the previous solar PV facilities agricultural report is acceptable.

5. **Issue raised:** Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required.
Meeting discussion: VT mentioned that applying the precautionary approach and due to time constraints, the VIA specialist has already visited the site. The question is whether the DFFE requires a full VIA or just a screening/summary VIA.
DS said that since the area already has several HV power lines, perhaps the same approach as per point 4 above could be applied with just a visual screening. DS asked VS if the DFFE could accept this approach.
VS stated that it depends on the merit of the case since visual impact is usually where there is a lot of resentment and aggrieved parties who would complain and even appeal if it was not done properly. VS suggested that a complete VIA be done especially in an area like this. VS further said that he does not have a problem against a screening but he would guard against it especially in an area such as this one.
AP asked VT if the DFFE's screening tool kit indicated a VIA was required.
VT said that it is for the very reason that VS mentioned and cautioned the meeting about, that VT requested a VIA for this project. Having done the previous solar facility EIAs, there is resentment from (not immediate) neighbours. V further said that an appeal process can even stop an approved EA. VT could not recall if the screening tool required a VIA but she does know from the pre-application public participation (PP) that there is already a farmer who indicated that they are not happy with the project. Due to the cost implications VT put the question on the agenda but VT concurred with VS's suggestion that it would be better to do a full VIA.
AP agreed with VT and VS.
DS mentioned that a short cut could be taken and it might save some costs but if the decision is appealed then the whole process stops and we have already indicated our short timeframe for the project and the delay on an appeal is much worse than what a full VIA would cost the project in time and money.
DFFE Response: The DFFE stated that a complete/full VIA should be undertaken.
6. **Issue raised:** Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?
Meeting discussion: VT mentioned that as an EAP she had not seen any notices from the DFFE mentioning whether the PP is back to the original timelines or whether additional time should be added do to the COVID-19 situation.
DS said 30 days is the minimum that is required for PP in everything DFFE does so stick to that.
VS added that the project should stick to the 30 day PP and only if there is a challenge, then the DFFE can be notified in terms of Regulation 19 (1)(b) whether more time is needed. If we add the 21 days now we are extending the project to over the timeframe. VS stated that the 21 days can either use the 21 days or not but his advice is to stick to the 30 days, moreover, it gives a chance to assess the situation since anything can happen. Should something happen, then the EAP can invoke the 21 days, or even the 50 day extension where the PP will be done fully again. Do the application according to the 30 days PP process. Once the application is in process liaison with the case officer, Juliet/Jabulile, can take place and advice can always be given in the process.
DFFE Response: The normal 30 day public participation process period is sufficient.
7. **GENERAL/Concluding remarks from the Department.**
- i. WM mentioned that with regards to the EMPs the idea is to fast track everything we can.
WM asked if two or three generic substation EMPs must be submitted since we are want a separate EA for the IPP substation/splitting the Visserdam substation that in essence is two EMPs.
Meeting discussion: DS said that for each one there must be an EMP since splitting an EMP creates problems. So have an EMP for each one to make the process easier.
VS said to cover ourselves have a good EMP
VT said that the idea is to have two EMPs, one for each substation and one (generic) power line EMP. So, there will be three EMPs for the project. EnviroAfrica might also include its standard construction EMP to cover all the bases that may be required.
- ii. RD mentioned that the PV facilities have been bid in round 5 which increases pressure to meet the timelines i.e. the EA is required in time for financial closure which is the end of February 2022. The EAP has provided a schedule using the legislated timelines which brings the project to the middle of February [2022] but in terms of the EMP, Mulilo would like to do all they can to make sure the EMPs are approved since there won't be time for an EMP update and another 30 day PP.

Meeting discussion: DS concurred with Ryan that an update will require another 30 day PP and also reminded the meeting that in terms of the project timelines, cognisance must be taken of the December break when the Department closes.

VS confirmed that this would be from 15/12/2021 to around 05/01/2022. VS said the timeframes will have to be managed very carefully from the Applicant/EAP's side since during the December period the Department is not functioning.

DS suggestion that in the application cover letter, we mention that this is part of the bid process and that we are working according to the following timelines to alert the DFFE of the fact.

RD asked if since generic (pre-approved) EMPs will be submitted, once the site specific mitigation measures are added is it standard to approve the generic EMPs even with the added mitigation measures?

DS said that for the DFFE to approve the EA and EMPs, everything must be in it to avoid an amendment later on.

VS stated that if an EA is approved and not the EMP then the EMP will have to be Fixed and subjected to another 30 day PP to get approval. The DFFE is aware that often there are issues with layout designs and plans but if these can be fixed as early as possible and included in the EMP, that will save on time which must be managed so that when the final BAR is submitted, the final EMP is also submitted.

DS concurred with VS and RD agreed.

VT said that for the EMPs to be approved the EAP needs finalisation on the kV power lines and what is going to be in the substations since that impacts on what is said in terms of mitigation measures and management. Speaking specifically to WM, VT said she needs that detail so the EMPs are handled in one go and not have to be 'rehashed'.

DS reiterated that a once-off submission is always better even if it takes a little longer to get the information because the drag on in terms of time if the information is not there in the first place would be a disaster for the project.

VT agreed with DS and said it makes the EAP's job much easier to know exactly what is being dealt with.

- iii. VS provided concluding remarks from the DFFE and said Jabulile (also known as Juliet) is the case officer. Site visits will be determined on the merit of the case since the DFFE adheres to very strict COVID-19 protocols for site visits. Any queries must be directed to Juliet and the DFFE team is willing and available to assist. VS thanked the meeting
- iv. AP asked VT to mention the other specialist studies that have/will be conducted. VT listed the botanical (botanical and biodiversity), avifaunal (due to the super-surface power line structures), visual, agricultural and soil potential and a heritage specialist. All of which except for the heritage specialist have already been on site. There is also a freshwater specialist to look at the water issues since there are pans in the area. So the two processes, the WULA and NEMA processes are dovetailing. VS mentioned that we are on the right track. VT asked the Department if there were any other specialist studies which were required. DS said that that it all seemed covered. VS agreed and said that those studies are as per the appendix as well - we are on the right track.
- v. RD closed the meeting

~ End of Meeting ~

Note: A copy of the recording of the meeting is available on request.

APPENDIX A – DETAILED AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Brief project description summary**

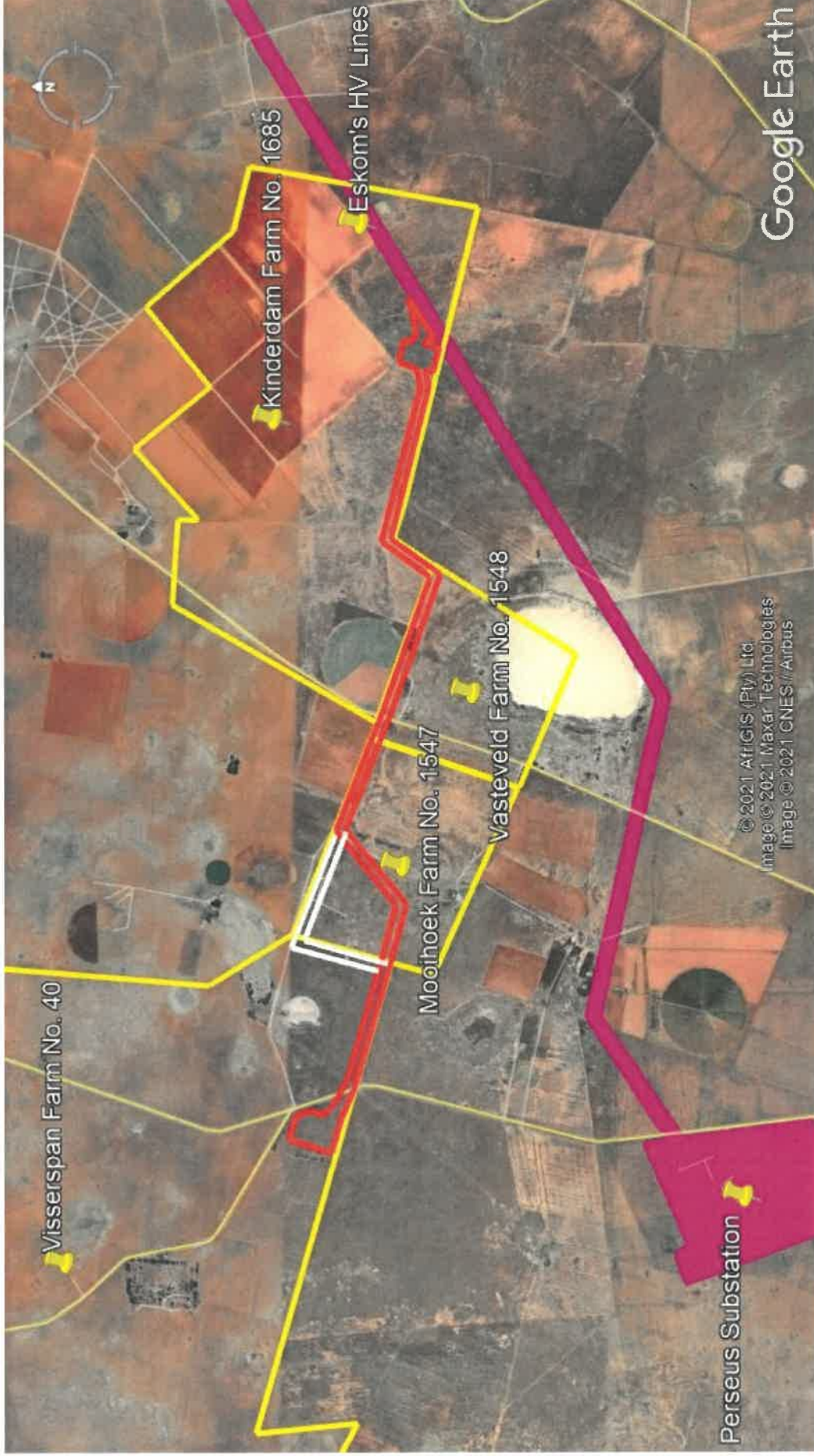
Issues for clarification in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application:

3. One of the substations, the Kinderdam Substation which lies closest to Eskom's 400kV where tie-in will occur, will be built by the Applicant but handed back to Eskom. **Would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (as per EIA Regulation 11)?**
4. Although the proposed development is to take place on agricultural land, part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process. The Visserspan substation footprint and initial part of the grid-connection corridor was part of this assessment. **Is an agricultural assessment required for this project considering that agricultural activities may still continue underneath the powerlines and the actual disturbed footprint still needing to be assessed makes up about 14% of the total project footprint as indicated as in the locality maps attached as Appendix 2?.**

Should the Department still require an agricultural assessment, may the same specialist who has conducted the Visserspan and many other assessments in the region provide an addendum statement to the Visserspan report instead of undertaking a full soil, land use and agricultural potential survey/impact assessment?
5. Electricity from the Visserspan Solar PV facilities will be evacuated via overhead 132kV poles and/or 400kV pylons. An approximately 6km grid tie-in line will be constructed as part of the proposed grid connection in part running where there are currently no power lines. A visual impact assessment (VIA) specialist has been approached as part of the specialist assessment team for the project. **Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required?**
6. **Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?**
7. **General/Concluding remarks from the Department.**

~ End of Meeting ~

APPENDIX B
 SATELLITE IMAGE OF PROPOSED SUBSTATIONS AND OVERHEAD POWER LINE ROUTE/CORRIDOR



Note: Farm SG/cadastral boundaries indicated in yellow – farm boundary fences do not necessarily follow cadastral demarcations (Mooihoek, Vasteveid, Kinderdam farms, as well as farm immediately to the north of Mooihoek Farm and adjacent to Visserspan Farm all owned by one landowner, Mr K Saaiman). Proposed grid connection route indicated in red with alternative to route indicated in white. Existing Eskom HV lines and substation indicated in purple.

From: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 04 October 2021 13:49
To: Vivienne Thomson
Cc: Zama Langa; Ephron Maradwa; Dr. Danie Smit; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg'; Bernard de witt
Subject: Approval of Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed Visserspan Solar Pv Facility Grid Connection

Dear Ms Vivienne

The Public Participation (PP) Plan for the proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facility Grid Connection, received by this Department on 04 October 2021, refers.

Based on the information provided this Department decided to approve the PP Plan and minutes for the proposed project. You may proceed with the PP process in accordance with tasks contemplated in the PP plan. Should you wish to deviate from the submitted PP Plan, the amended PP Plan must be submitted to the Department for approval prior commencement.

A copy of the PP Plan and this approval must be submitted as part of the application form when the application is lodged.

Also note that submission of a PP Plan and approval thereof do not negate your responsibility to comply with the requirements for public participation in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Julliet Mahlangu
Environmental Officer Specialised Production
Chief Directorate Integrated Environmental Authorisation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment
Cell: 064 880 8742
Tel: (012) 399 9320



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

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

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Vivienne Thomson

From: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 04 October 2021 08:40
To: Vivienne Thomson
Subject: RE: Visserspan Grid Connection Project Plan (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007)

Good Morning Vivienne

All is noted.
I was on leave, I will send a formal approval before 11.

Regards
J

From: Vivienne Thomson [mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za]
Sent: Friday, 01 October 2021 12:26 PM
To: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Project Plan (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007)

Hi Jabulile

As per the message I left on your office voicemail box: Just thought I should let you know that the project plan I sent you earlier this week is based on the fact that Mulilo (co-developers with Keren Energy for the above project) provide me with the information I require for the draft BAR and EMPr i.e. preliminary layout plants and pylon information as listed in the EMPr.

If Mulilo delays in getting this information to me by Monday, I will adjust the project plan timelines accordingly to accommodate our deadlines and re-send it to you.

P.S. As per the pre-application meeting request form, only Keren Energy Holdings will be the applicant

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Assessment Practitioner

EnviroAfrica cc

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Vivienne Thomson

From: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 04 October 2021 08:44
To: Vivienne Thomson
Cc: Bernard de witt; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg'; Zama Langa
Subject: RE: Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

Good Morning

Please amend the PP plan and include the list of the identified I&APs.

Regards

J

From: Vivienne Thomson [mailto:vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za]
Sent: Thursday, 30 September 2021 11:51 AM
To: Julliet Mahlangu <JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Bernard de witt <bernard@enviroafrica.co.za>; 'Weyers Janse van Rensburg' <weyers@kerenenergy.com>
Subject: Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)
Importance: High

Dear Juliet

Please find the public participation plan (PPP) and project plan for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility Grid Connection project.

Please let me know if the PPP and minutes of the pre-application meeting have been approved.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 15 November 2021 23:21
To: 'EIAAdmin@environment.gov'
Cc: 'EMaradwa@environment.gov.za'; 'JMMahlangu@environment.gov.za'
Subject: Query re. Regulations (11) and 25(2) for pre-application Ref No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)
Attachments: Full Visserspan Grid Connection Query Letter EIA Admin.pdf; Appendix 1 - Minutes with appendices.pdf
Importance: High

Dear Madam/Sir

With reference to the attached letter, please advise regarding a query/request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection).

For ease of reference, Appendix 1 included in the full query letter is also attached as a separate file.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



Environmental Assessment Practitioner

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P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

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15 November 2021

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EIA Applications (Integrated Environmental Authorisations)
Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Arcadia
0083

Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

Dear Competent Authority

re.: Request for clarification in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2) for pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007 (Visserspan Solar Facility Grid Connection)

EnviroAfrica CC on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd intends to apply for environmental authorisation (EA) for the above project. A pre-application meeting with the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) was held on 27 August 2021 (minutes attached as Appendix 1 of this letter). EnviroAfrica was advised by the DFFE to submit an enquiry regarding the issue detailed below to EIA Admin as well as the Interpretation and Queries Desk prior to submission of the EA application as per point 3 of Appendix 1 attached.

BACKGROUND:

The current/intended EA application i.e. Visserspan Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Grid Connection (Ref. No.: 2021-08-0007), is to enable connection of four already authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities to the existing national/Eskom electricity grid. Visserspan Solar PV Facilities (Projects 1 to 4) will each produce between 75MW to 100MW of electricity and were individually bid in the recent Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP) Bid Window 5. Even though none of the Visserspan bids were successful as preferred bidder in this round of bidding, the developer intends to establish the grid connection infrastructure to accommodate each of the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities'. It is intended to bid the four

Visserspan Solar PV Facilities in REIPPPP Bid Window 6 scheduled for the end of March 2022. In Bid Window 6, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy seeks to add another 4200MW of renewable energy to the national grid. Should one or more of the four Visserspan Solar PV bids be unsuccessful in Bid Window 6, they will be bid in future bidding windows.

The current/intended EA application for the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection entails permanent and temporary/construction infrastructure development. Permanent infrastructure development includes overhead power lines and substations (including offices, ablutions, storage buildings, transformers and pylons for overhead powerlines), as well as 4m to 8m wide (dirt) access roads/vehicle tracks where such roads do not already exist. Temporary/construction infrastructure includes two lay down areas, site offices, storage buildings, as well as a batching plant and stockpile yard. Construction ablutions would be provided by means of regularly serviced portable toilets and tanker trucks would supply water.

The Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection will accommodate all four solar PV facilities in a once-off construction process. Substation construction and overhead power lines will be strung for each solar PV facility on pylons erected during the once-off construction process. The substations are planned to be built on either 'end' of the overhead power line corridor on the Visserspan and Kinderdam farms, respectively, as per Appendix B of Appendix 1 attached. The entire grid connection corridor route and the substations will be fully assessed during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process for the intended EA application.

As such, all environmental issues/negative environmental impacts will be identified and rated in terms of significance, with mitigation and management measures provided in the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection basic assessment report (BAR) and associated environmental management plan report (EMPr), enabling the Department to make an informed decision on the whole application.

CLARIFICATION REQUEST:

The current/intended single EA application consists of three main parts:

- i. the on-site Visserspan substation which is in essence divided into two functional portions i.e.
 - a. the Independent Power Producer (IPP) 'collector substation' portion where evacuated electricity from the four Visserspan Solar PV Facilities will be collected and
 - b. the 'switching station' substation portion where the evacuated electricity will be stepped-up/transformed from either 22kV or 33kV, to 132kV;

- ii. the overhead (most likely 132kV) power lines strung on steel monopoles which will conduct electricity towards the point of connection with the national grid; and
- iii. the Kinderdam substation where the 132kV electricity conducted from the on-site substation will be stepped-up/transformed to 400kV enabling connection to the national grid via the 400kV Theseus-Perseus Eskom Overhead powerline.

As is common for these types of grid connection projects, the bulk of the permanent built infrastructure will be handed to Eskom once built. The future Eskom infrastructure includes portion i(b), ii and iii as listed above.

EnviroAfrica on behalf of Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd would like to know if two EAs can be issued from the single Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection application (pre-application EA Reference No.: 2021-08-0007) in terms of NEMA EIA Regulation 11 and 25(2)? One of the EAs would be issued to the IPP/Applicant (Keren Energy Holdings (Pty) Ltd) and the other to Eskom.

To make the potential 'splitting' of the EA application into two EAs easier, EnviroAfrica will be submitting four EMPs together with the single BAR for this application: One for the IPP portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the collector part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the Visserspan Substation i.e. the switching station part of the on-site substation, one for the future Eskom portion of the overhead power lines and one for the future Eskom portion of the potential Kinderdam Substation.

Please advise what the Department's stance on the above request would be, or if further information is required from EnviroAfrica.

Yours sincerely,



Vivienne Thomson
Environmental Consultant
EnviroAfrica CC
Mobile: +27 82 464 2874
Email: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

**MINUTES OF PRE-APPLICATION MEETING
FOR VISSERSPAN SOLAR PV GRID CONNECTION
HELD ON 27 AUGUST 2021**

PRESENT:

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) viz. Danie Smit - Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects (DS), Vusi Skosana - Director: National Infrastructure Projects (VS), Juliet (Jabulile) Mahlangu - Case Officer (JM);
EnviroAfrica/Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) viz. Vivienne Thomson (VT) and Bernard De Witt (BDW);
Keren Energy (Co-Developer/Applicant) viz. Weyers Janse van Rensburg (WJvR);
Mulio (Co-Developer/Bidder) viz. Ryan David-Andersen (RD); Warren Morse (WM); Andrew Pearson (AP).

1. WELCOME:

- i. DS introduced the DFFE team and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- ii. DS reminded the meeting that minutes must be sent for approval to the DFFE and included in the BAR and that all documentation is to be submitted electronically as per the DFFE's existing system.
- iii. VT requested that the meeting be recorded. The meeting gave consent to do so. WM from Mulilo recorded the meeting.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/SUMMARY:

Using satellite imagery of the preferred route, RD stated that:

- i. the entire grid connection is within both a REDZ and an EGI corridor.
- ii. there are four authorised Visserspan Solar PV Facilities but the application and EAs for the solar PV facilities did not include an on-site substation.
- iii. the current application includes a Visserspan/on-site substation (on Visserspan Solar PV Project 2) and a connection to the existing Eskom grid.
- iv. there are options for connection to the existing grid on the preferred route (preferred due to Eskom engagement, the CELs that were received for the project, landowner discussions and from a cost perspective).
- v. the proposed on-site substation is divided into two - an IPP substation which will step-up the power coming from approved PV projects from 33kV to 132kV before going into the second part of the substation which is an Eskom switching station (SS).
- vi. ultimately, only the IPP substation will belong to the applicant and the SS and power line infrastructure would be handed back to Eskom.
- vii. the options are in terms of the type of grid connection line to be used for tie-in to the Eskom grid i.e. the line could be a 132kV monopole line, or a 275 kV, or 400kV steel pylon line (to be finalised after discussions with Eskom).
- viii. if Eskom requires a 275kV or 400kV line then the second/Kinderdam substation would not be required.

WD confirmed the statement and added that:

- ix. the case of (viii) above, is called a double circuit line i.e. one tower with two conductors on either side which basically strings the conductor into the solar plant and back to the Eskom (grid) line again (two lines/conductors linked on the same structure).

RD stated that:

- x. option (ix) above is more expensive.
- xi. the potential alternative route is still in the process of being negotiated with a potential competitor, Mainstream, since they have several solar PV facilities around Eskom's Perseus substation and two collector substations to the south of Visserspan. Perhaps servitude rights for the potential alternate route and a link into Mainstream's collector substation could be negotiated. RD stated that an email had been sent to Mainstream but no response had been received as yet.

VT requested that, for purposes of the meeting, focus be given to the issues requiring clarification as per the agenda (Appendix A, attached as page 5) and that the various alternatives and possible power line options, once finalised/semi-finalised with Eskom, will be discussed in the draft BAR to be considered by the DFFE. RD handed the meeting to VT.

VT provided context in terms of the affected properties (Appendix B, attached as page 6):

- xii. from west to east on the image in Appendix 2 the affected farms are – Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685. Kinderdam Farm contains the existing Eskom 400kV and 275kV powerline servitude
- xiii. the three farms, adjacent to Visserspan, through which the proposed development runs belong to the same farmer who owns all properties immediately surrounding the grid connection corridor once it leaves Visserspan Farm No. 40.
- xiv. the precautionary principle was applied, taking worst case scenario into account in terms of the proposed development footprint - the impact would be assessed in terms of two substations – one on Visserspan Farm (just over approximately 7ha footprint) and the other on Kinderdam Farm (approximately 6ha footprint) and a 55m wide corridor for the powerline connection (using worst case scenario impact from a 400kV overhead powerline with steel pylons)
- xv. the approach in (xiv) above was used so that if a smaller kV line or if only one substation was eventually developed the impacts would have been assessed since the worst case scenario/largest footprint would have been used.
- xvi. the specialists and EAP assessed areas wider than just the corridor/development footprint and alternative routes (indicated in white in Appendix 2 and as per earlier discussion)

ISSUES FOR CLARIFICATION in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application (DFFE clarification response highlighted in yellow):

- 3 Issue raised:** Due to part of the infrastructure being handed back to Eskom, would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (one in the name of the IPP/Applicant and one in the name of Eskom) as per EIA Regulations 11 and 25(2)?

Meeting discussion: VT mentioned that the entire development will be assessed fully in the EIA process but that a fair portion of the development will get handed back to Eskom which is why the request is being made.

VS stated that Regulation 11 and 25(2) does allow one bigger EIA with two EAs being issued. Yes, two EAs can be issued from one application. VS agreed with VT that all the issues/negative environmental impacts must be identified on both [EA] sides and they must be assessed and mitigation measures or alternatives must be provided before a decision could be issued. So while it is possible, the DFFE is not going to confirm it in this pre-application meeting until such time the interpretation query (IQ) officials are consulted so that an official response may be given. VS further stated that problems arise when the Applicant requests a splitting of the decision/EA after it has been issued. The DFFE often finds that where the split has to take place not all the negative impacts have been assessed.

VT asked if the request for the issuing of two EAs must form part of the DBAR narrative, or if it should be mentioned in a cover letter accompanying (but separate to) the DBAR? DS said that the request must be separate but should be sent to the DFFE IQ up front before the DBAR and application is submitted. The EAP must send in a request to EIA Admin and IQ detailing the request with a map, before submission of the DBAR so that the issue may be decided upon.

AP mentioned that he agreed with VS and that the intention this request is to avoid the need for asking for a split after the EA is issued.

DFFE Response: This issue must be fully assessed by the DFFE's IQ officials so that the Department can take a firm position on it and provide an official response.

- 4. Issue raised:** Since part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment (AIA) during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process, could the same specialist be used and only an addendum to the original report be undertaken to assess and incorporate the areas not assessed in the Visserspan Solar PV development? This will save the project time and cost.

Meeting discussion: DS mentioned that if it is the same specialist as used for the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities AIA then an addendum incorporating the new areas impacted would be acceptable.

VS concurred with DS.

DFFE Response: Yes - an addendum by the same specialist to the previous solar PV facilities agricultural report is acceptable.

5. **Issue raised:** Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required.

Meeting discussion: VT mentioned that applying the precautionary approach and due to time constraints, the VIA specialist has already visited the site. The question is whether the DFFE requires a full VIA or just a screening/summary VIA.

DS said that since the area already has several HV power lines, perhaps the same approach as per point 4 above could be applied with just a visual screening. DS asked VS if the DFFE could accept this approach.

VS stated that it depends on the merit of the case since visual impact is usually where there is a lot of resentment and aggrieved parties who would complain and even appeal if it was not done properly. VS suggested that a complete VIA be done especially in an area like this. VS further said that he does not have a problem against a screening but he would guard against it especially in an area such as this one.

AP asked VT if the DFFE's screening tool kit indicated a VIA was required.

VT said that it is for the very reason that VS mentioned and cautioned the meeting about, that VT requested a VIA for this project. Having done the previous solar facility EIAs, there is resentment from (not immediate) neighbours. V further said that an appeal process can even stop an approved EA. VT could not recall if the screening tool required a VIA but she does know from the pre-application public participation (PP) that there is already a farmer who indicated that they are not happy with the project. Due to the cost implications VT put the question on the agenda but VT concurred with VS's suggestion that it would be better to do a full VIA.

AP agreed with VT and VS.

DS mentioned that a short cut could be taken and it might save some costs but if the decision is appealed then the whole process stops and we have already indicated our short timeframe for the project and the delay on an appeal is much worse than what a full VIA would cost the project in time and money.

DFFE Response: The DFFE stated that a complete/full VIA should be undertaken.

6. **Issue raised:** Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?

Meeting discussion: VT mentioned that as an EAP she had not seen any notices from the DFFE mentioning whether the PP is back to the original timelines or whether additional time should be added do to the COVID-19 situation.

DS said 30 days is the minimum that is required for PP in everything DFFE does so stick to that.

VS added that the project should stick to the 30 day PP and only if there is a challenge, then the DFFE can be notified in terms of Regulation 19 (1)(b) whether more time is needed. If we add the 21 days now we are extending the project to over the timeframe. VS stated that the 21 days can either use the 21 days or not but his advice is to stick to the 30 days, moreover, it gives a chance to assess the situation since anything can happen. Should something happen, then the EAP can invoke the 21 days, or even the 50 day extension where the PP will be done fully again. Do the application according to the 30 days PP process. Once the application is in process liaison with the case officer, Juliet/Jabulile, can take place and advice can always be given in the process.

DFFE Response: The normal 30 day public participation process period is sufficient.

7. GENERAL/Concluding remarks from the Department.

- i. WM mentioned that with regards to the EMPs the idea is to fast track everything we can. WM asked if two or three generic substation EMPs must be submitted since we are want a separate EA for the IPP substation/splitting the Visserdam substation that in essence is two EMPs. **Meeting discussion:** DS said that for each one there must be an EMP since splitting an EMP creates problems. So have an EMP for each one to make the process easier. VS said to cover ourselves have a good EMP. VT said that the idea is to have two EMPs, one for each substation and one (generic) power line EMP. So, there will be three EMPs for the project. EnviroAfrica might also include its standard construction EMP to cover all the bases that may be required.
- ii. RD mentioned that the PV facilities have been bid in round 5 which increases pressure to meet the timelines i.e. the EA is required in time for financial closure which is the end of February 2022. The EAP has provided a schedule using the legislated timelines which brings the project to the middle of February [2022] but in terms of the EMP, Mulilo would like to do all they can to make sure the EMPs are approved since there won't be time for an EMP update and another 30 day PP.

Meeting discussion: DS concurred with Ryan that an update will require another 30 day PP and also reminded the meeting that in terms of the project timelines, cognisance must be taken of the December break when the Department closes.

VS confirmed that this would be from 15/12/2021 to around 05/01/2022. VS said the timeframes will have to be managed very carefully from the Applicant/EAP's side since during the December period the Department is not functioning.

DS suggestion that in the application cover letter, we mention that this is part of the bid process and that we are working according to the following timelines to alert the DFFE of the fact.

RD asked if since generic (pre-approved) EMPs will be submitted, once the site specific mitigation measures are added is it standard to approve the generic EMPs even with the added mitigation measures?

DS said that for the DFFE to approve the EA and EMPs, everything must be in it to avoid an amendment later on.

VS stated that if an EA is approved and not the EMP then the EMP will have to be Fixed and subjected to another 30 day PP to get approval. The DFFE is aware that often there are issues with layout designs and plans but if these can be fixed as early as possible and included in the EMP, that will save on time which must be managed so that when the final BAR is submitted, the final EMP is also submitted.

DS concurred with VS and RD agreed.

VT said that for the EMPs to be approved the EAP needs finalisation on the kV power lines and what is going to be in the substations since that impacts on what is said in terms of mitigation measures and management. Speaking specifically to WM, VT said she needs that detail so the EMPs are handled in one go and not have to be 'rehashed'.

DS reiterated that a once-off submission is always better even if it takes a little longer to get the information because the drag on in terms of time if the information is not there in the first place would be a disaster for the project.

VT agreed with DS and said it makes the EAP's job much easier to know exactly what is being dealt with.

- iii. VS provided concluding remarks from the DFFE and said Jabulile (also known as Juliet) is the case officer. Site visits will be determined on the merit of the case since the DFFE adheres to very strict COVID-19 protocols for site visits. Any queries must be directed to Juliet and the DFFE team is willing and available to assist. VS thanked the meeting
- iv. AP asked VT to mention the other specialist studies that have/will be conducted. VT listed the botanical (botanical and biodiversity), avifaunal (due to the super-surface power line structures), visual, agricultural and soil potential and a heritage specialist. All of which except for the heritage specialist have already been on site. There is also a freshwater specialist to look at the water issues since there are pans in the area. So the two processes, the WULA and NEMA processes are dovetailing. VS mentioned that we are on the right track. VT asked the Department if there were any other specialist studies which were required. DS said that that it all seemed covered. VS agreed and said that those studies are as per the appendix as well - we are on the right track.
- v. RD closed the meeting

~ End of Meeting ~

Note: A copy of the recording of the meeting is available on request.

APPENDIX A – DETAILED AGENDA

1. **Welcome**
2. **Brief project description summary**

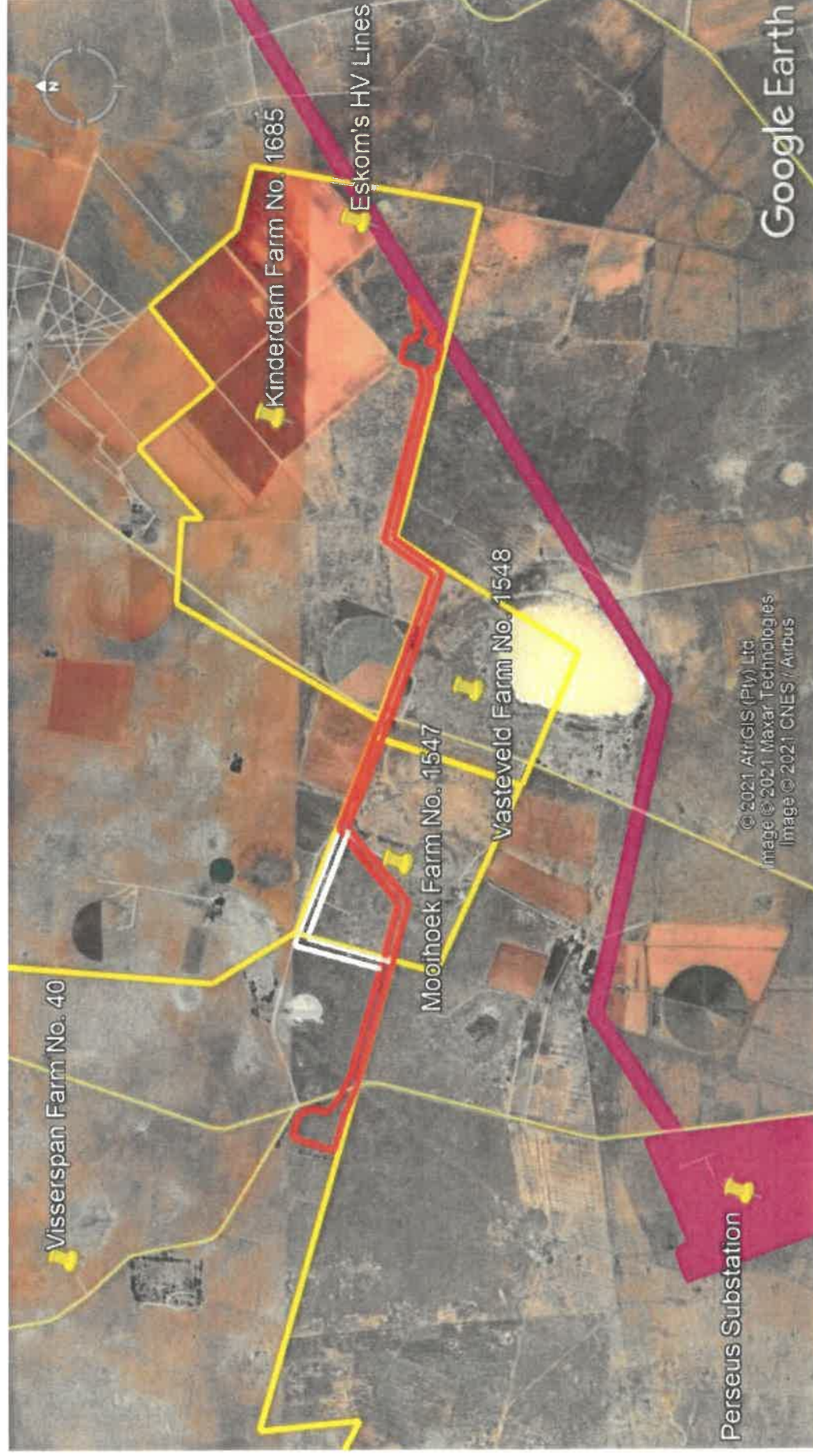
Issues for clarification in terms of a proposed Visserspan Grid Connection application:

3. One of the substations, the Kinderdam Substation which lies closest to Eskom's 400kV where tie-in will occur, will be built by the Applicant but handed back to Eskom. **Would it be possible to undertake one application i.e. the Visserspan Grid Connection application process, but have the Department issue two EA's from the single application (as per EIA Regulation 11)?**
4. Although the proposed development is to take place on agricultural land, part of the impacted area has already undergone a full agricultural impact assessment during the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities EIA process. The Visserspan substation footprint and initial part of the grid-connection corridor was part of this assessment. **Is an agricultural assessment required for this project considering that agricultural activities may still continue underneath the powerlines and the actual disturbed footprint still needing to be assessed makes up about 14% of the total project footprint as indicated as in the locality maps attached as Appendix 2?**

Should the Department still require an agricultural assessment, may the same specialist who has conducted the Visserspan and many other assessments in the region provide an addendum statement to the Visserspan report instead of undertaking a full soil, land use and agricultural potential survey/impact assessment?
5. Electricity from the Visserspan Solar PV facilities will be evacuated via overhead 132kV poles and/or 400kV pylons. An approximately 6km grid tie-in line will be constructed as part of the proposed grid connection in part running where there are currently no power lines. A visual impact assessment (VIA) specialist has been approached as part of the specialist assessment team for the project. **Please clarify if a full/detailed VIA, or an overview/summary visual impact screening is required?**
6. **Must the public participation process accommodate an extra 21 days in addition to the minimum 30 days, due to COVID-19 / Disaster Management Act?**
7. **General/Concluding remarks from the Department.**

~ End of Meeting ~

APPENDIX B
SATELLITE IMAGE OF PROPOSED SUBSTATIONS AND OVERHEAD POWER LINE ROUTE/CORRIDOR



Note: Farm SG/cadastral boundaries indicated in yellow – farm boundary fences do not necessarily follow cadastral demarcations (Mooihoek, Vasteveld, Kinderdam farms, as well as farm immediately to the north of Mooihoek Farm and adjacent to Visserspan Farm all owned by one landowner, Mr K Saatman). Proposed grid connection route indicated in red with alternative to route indicated in white. Existing Eskom HV lines and substation indicated in purple.

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:52
To: 'EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Appendix E2 –DFFE (National Biodiversity Directorate)

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:53
To: 'StanleyT@environment.gov.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

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f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Appendix E3 –DALRRD (National Agriculture)

Vivienne Thomson

From: Mail Delivery System <Mailer-Daemon@antispam1-jnb1.host-h.net>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:47
To: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender
Attachments: details.txt; Untitled attachment 00065.txt

This message was created automatically by mail delivery software.

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

acollett@environment.gov.za
host za-smtp-inbound-2.mimecast.co.za [41.74.197.210]
SMTP error from remote mail server after RCPT TO:<acollett@environment.gov.za>:
550 Invalid Recipient - <https://community.mimecast.com/docs/DOC-1369#550>
[QCYNuU8wPkmD85HmoqHaPQ.za134]

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:47
To: 'acollett@environment.gov.za'; 'AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the projects, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Vivienne Thomson

From: System Administrator
To: 'acollette@environment.gov.'
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:44
Subject: Undeliverable: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process

Your message did not reach some or all of the intended recipients.

Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Sent: 2021/08/05 21:44

The following recipient(s) cannot be reached:

'acollette@environment.gov.' on 2021/08/05 21:44
Server error: '501 <acollette@environment.gov.>: domain missing or malformed'

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:44
To: 'acollette@environment.gov.'; 'AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the projects, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:56
To: 'Thokob@daff.gov.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:55
To: 'MashuduMa@daff.gov.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 22:01
To: 'AnnetteS@daff.gov.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Appendix E4 –DARD (Provincial)

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:52
To: 'jack@fs.agric.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Vivienne Thomson

From: websense@nda.agric.za
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:54
To: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Undelivered Mail Returned to Sender
Attachments: details.txt; Undelivered Message Headers.txt

This message is from the Forcepoint email protection system, Forcepoint Email Security at host agrimx2.nda.agric.za.

The attached email could not be delivered to one or more recipients.

For assistance, please contact your email system administrator and include the following problem report:

<jack@fs.agric.za>: mail for fs.agric.za loops back to myself

**MAILBOX
CLOSED
RETURN TO SENDER**



The Director
Agriculture & Rural Development
Private Bag X01
BLOEMFONTEIN
9360

Dear Interested and Affected Party

Appendix E5 –DHSW&S (Provincial)

Vivienne Thomson

From: E-WULAAS Calls <E-WULAASCalls@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 13 December 2021 11:08
To: Dirk Van Driel
Cc: Mokhoantle Lerato (KBY); Fortuin Byron (BFN); Nicolette Vermaak; Vivienne Thomson; E-WULAAS Calls
Subject: Breidenkamp Familie Trust - Breidenkamp Familie Trust (WU21064) (PTW 2021-12-13)

Good Morning,

Form Validated.

Legend:		New	Incomplete	Completed
#	Open	Description	Form	Date
1	Open	Client Registration	DW758 - Registration/Licensing Part 1 - Company, Business, Partnership Or Community, National Or Provincial Government	7/8/2021 2:20:34 P
2	Open	Land Parcel 40 of the Major Region BOSHOF (Farm)	DW901 - Property where water use occurs	9/14/2021 12:50:1
3	Open	Land Parcel 40 of the Major Region BOSHOF (Farm)	DW902 - Details of Property Owner	9/14/2021 12:50:1
4	Open	Visserspan Solar Power Plant	DW760 - Taking water from a water resource (a)	9/14/2021 12:50:1
5	Open	Visserspan Solar Power Plant	DW763 - Impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse (c)	9/14/2021 12:54:2
6	Open	Visserspan Solar Power Plant	DW768 - Altering The Bed, Banks, Course Or Characteristics Of A Watercourse (i)	9/14/2021 12:56:3

Regards
Thembakazi Willard
e-WULAAS Support
[e-WULAASCalls@dws.gov.za](mailto:E-WULAASCalls@dws.gov.za)
012 3367091

From: Dirk Van Driel [mailto:saligna2030@gmail.com]
Sent: 12 December 2021 10:59

To: E-WULAAS Calls <E-WULAAScalls@dws.gov.za>; Mokhoantle Lerato (KBY) <MokhoantleL@dws.gov.za>; Fortuin Byron (BFN) <FortuinB@dws.gov.za>; Nicolette Vermaak <nokkie.vermaak@gmail.com>; Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Subject: WU21064

Dear Ms Willard

Thank you so much for your help in the past. Without your kind assistance, eWULAAS is not working for us.

There is a problem with page 2 of DW902. I corrected the problem, then saved the corrected page, then validated the form. Then eWULAAS said that the form is complete.
The next step is to submit the form. The system reverted back. It indicated that DW902 is incomplete. The corrected version of page 2 has reverted back to the previous erroneous version. This carried on repeatedly, every time I tried, for the past weeks.

Please help.

I know that there is a trick with the telephone numbers. It has to be completed in just the right way. Please let me know how to complete these numbers.

This is a very urgent WULA, because it is a very big solar plant in the national interest, electricity for the grid.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance. Thank you very much for your patience.

Best regards



Vivienne Thomson

From: Dirk Van Driel <saligna2030@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 28 October 2021 16:45
To: Vivienne Thomson; Nicolette Vermaak
Subject: Fwd: Application has been returned to you (WU21064)

Hello Vivienne and Nicolette

So we do not need a site visit with the DWS.

Best regards



----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[Ewulaas Do Not Reply@dws.gov.za](mailto:Ewulaas_Do_Not_Reply@dws.gov.za)>
Date: Thu, Oct 28, 2021 at 4:39 PM
Subject: Application has been returned to you (WU21064)
To: <saligna2030@gmail.com>

Dear Dr Dirk van Driel,

The following application has been returned to you :

Bredenkamp Familie Trust (WU21064)

The reason for the return is as follows :

Acknowledgement Letter - Site Visit Not Required - Signed by the WUL Manager - The letter was dispatched to the applicant via e-mail.

You received this email from :

Name : Mr Byron Fortuin (Wul Manager)
e-Mail : Fortuinb@dws.gov.za
Tel : 0514050122

[Click Here to access the Application](#)

Kind Regards,
e-WULAAS on Behalf of **Department of Water and Sanitation**

Private Bag X313, Pretoria, 0001
Sedibeng Building, 185 Francis Baard Street, Pretoria, 0001
Tel: (012) 336 7500
Fax: (012) 323-4472
Website: www.dws.gov.za
Email: E-WULAASCalls@dws.gov.za



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



e-WULAAS

In e-WULAAS Notifications

DISCLAIMER: This message and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the addressee. If you have received this message in error, please notify the system manager/sender. Any unauthorized use, alteration or dissemination is prohibited. The Department of Water and Sanitation further accepts no liability whatsoever for any loss, whether it be direct, indirect or consequential, arising from this e-mail, nor for any consequence of its use or storage.

Appendix E6 – SAHRA

Vivienne Thomson

From: acrm@waccess.co.za
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 13:13
To: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: visserpan grid connection - uploaded to SAHRIS

Importance: Low

Hi Viv
Have uploaded to SAHRIS – see below
Please let Bernard know as well

Jonathan

PROPOSED VISSERSPAN GRID CONNECTION ON THE FARMS VISSERSPAN NO. 40, MOOIHOEK NO. 1547, VASTEVELD NO. 1548 AND KINDERDAM NO. 1685, NEAR DEALESVILLE, TOKOLOGO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

[Add new comment](#) [Subscribe to: This post](#)

CaseHeader **LocationInfo** **Admin**

Status: SUBMITTED

HeritageAuthority(s): SAHRA
HFS

Case Type: Section 38 (1) - Decision from Heritage Authority required

ProposalDescription:

The proposed development is primarily a linear development and includes the construction of two new substations located at each end of the grid connection line. A combined switching station and high voltage substation on the Farm Visserspan 40 will serve as the collection point for electricity generated from the proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facility

Expanded_Motivation:

The proposed development is primarily a linear development and includes the construction of two new substations located at each end of the grid connection line. A combined switching station and high voltage substation on the Farm Visserspan 40 will serve as the collection point for electricity generated from the proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facility. From the switching station, electricity will be fed via overhead powerlines to the east, turning north east to trace the northern boundary of the Farms Mooihoek No. 1547 and Vasteveld No. 1548, before turning north east and running along the southern boundary of the Farm Kinderdam No. 1685, finally connecting to the proposed new Kinderdam main transmission substation (MTS). From the Kinderdam MTS, electricity will feed into the existing Eskom Perseus/Theseus 400kV overhead powerline that runs adjacent the site. The estimated total length of the grid connection line is about 5km and will be either via 132kV steel monopole or 400kV pylon overhead powerlines. The servitude for the proposed grid connection will be ± 55m wide. Existing farm roads and farm maintenance roads will be used, and no new roads will need to be constructed.

ApplicationDate: Thursday, February 17, 2022 - 12:48

CaseID: 17969

Applicants: ACRM

Consultants/Experts: Jonathan Kaplan

OtherReferences:

Heritage Reports: Phase 1 AIA Proposed Visserspan Grid Connection

ReferenceList:

Vivienne Thomson

From: acrm@waccess.co.za
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 13:08
To: 'Natasha Higgitt'
Cc: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za; 'de witt, Bernard'; 'Sityhilelo Ngcatsha'; 'Ragna Redelstorff'
Subject: RE: SAHRA CASE ID 15046

Done, thanks Natasha

Jonathan

From: Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 February 2022 09:46
To: Kaplan, Jonathan <acrm@waccess.co.za>
Cc: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za; de witt, Bernard <bernard@enviroafrica.co.za>; Sityhilelo Ngcatsha <sngcatsha@sahra.org.za>; Ragna Redelstorff <rredelstorff@sahra.org.za>
Subject: RE: SAHRA CASE ID 15046
Importance: Low

Good morning,

Please provide clarity on the proposed development assessed as part of the latest HIA. Case 15046 dealt with a PV facility and internal powerline. If the newest HIA is assessing a new proposed development that has a new NEMA application number, we request that a new SAHRIS application be created.

Kind regards,

From: Ragna Redelstorff <rredelstorff@sahra.org.za>
Sent: 15 February 2022 14:41
To: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha <sngcatsha@sahra.org.za>
Cc: Natasha Higgitt <nhiggitt@sahra.org.za>
Subject: FW: SAHRA CASE ID 15046

From: acrm@waccess.co.za <acrm@waccess.co.za>
Sent: Sunday, 13 February 2022 11:05
To: Ragna Redelstorff <rredelstorff@sahra.org.za>
Cc: 'Vivienne Thomson' <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>; 'Bernard de witt' <bernard@enviroafrica.co.za>
Subject: SAHRA CASE ID 15046

Dear Ragna,

I hope you are OK, and keeping well.

I have just uploaded an Additional Report (Visserspan Grid connection), to the Case ID 15046.

I have not created a new Case Id, as the report is directly associated with the proposed Visserspan Solar Energy Facility at Dealseville in the Free State Province

As soon as the FBAR (for the grid connection) is finalized, I will upload to SAHRIS as well.

Please can you confirm I have followed the correct process

Kind regards, Jonathan

Ragna Redelstorff, Ph.D.

Heritage Officer Archaeology, Palaeontology & Meteorites Unit



T: +27 21 4624502/ 8651
M:
E: RRedelstorff@sahra.org.za
A: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town, 8001,
Western Cape, ZA
www.sahra.org.za

SAHRA EMAIL DISCLAIMER
SAHRA PRIVACY POLICY

Natasha Higgitt

Heritage Officer: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit



T: +27 21 462 4502/ 8660
M: +27 82 507 0378
E: nhiggitt@sahra.org.za
A: SAHRA, 111 Harrington Street, Cape Town, 8001,
Western Cape, ZA
www.sahra.org.za

SAHRA EMAIL DISCLAIMER
SAHRA PRIVACY POLICY

Vivienne Thomson

From: acrm@waccess.co.za
Sent: Sunday, 13 February 2022 11:05
To: 'Ragna Redelstorff'
Cc: 'Vivienne Thomson'; 'Bernard de witt'
Subject: SAHRA CASE ID 15046

Dear Ragna,

I hope you are OK, and keeping well.

I have just uploaded an Additional Report (Visserspan Grid connection), to the Case ID 15046.

I have not created a new Case Id, as the report is directly associated with the proposed Visserspan Solar Energy Facility at Dealseville in the Free State Province

As soon as the FBAR (for the grid connection) is finalized, I will upload to SAHRIS as well.

Please can you confirm I have followed the correct process

Kind regards, Jonathan

Vivienne Thomson

From: acrm@waccess.co.za
Sent: Sunday, 13 February 2022 10:55
To: 'Vivienne Thomson'
Cc: 'Bernard de witt'
Subject: visserspan grid connection

Hi Vivienne,

See screen shot below – Visserspan Grid Connection report upload to SAHRIS as additional, supporting documentation

See below additional documents

Jonathan

FARM VISSERSPAN NO. 40 NEAR DEALESVILLE

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CaseHeader **LocationInfo** **Admin**

Status: SUBMITTED

HeritageAuthority(s): SAHRA
HFS

Case Type: Section 38 (8) - Statutory Comment Required

Development Type: Renewable Energy

ProposalDescription:
Four solar PV projects are proposed on the Farm Visserspan No. 40 near Dealesville (Figure 4). Each stand-alone facility will have a maximum generating capacity of 100MW and include the following infrastructure: Solar panels covering an area of about 200ha. The solar arrays will be raised approximately 500mm above ground level and will have single axis tracking systems. Transmission and distribution lines for connection to the Eskom Perseus substation, Inverter-transformer stations on concrete beds, Offices, workshops, stores, maintenance sheds, atiltion facilities, and Security/fencing

Expanded_Motivation:
The proposed development is primarily a linear development and includes the construction of two new substations located at each end of the grid connection line. A combined switching station and high voltage substation on the Farm Visserspan 40 will serve as the collection point for electricity generated from the proposed Visserspan Solar PV Facility (Kaplan 2020). From the switching station, electricity will be fed via overhead powerlines to the east, turning north east to trace the northern boundary of the Farms Mooihoek No. 1547 and Vasteveld No. 1548, before turning north east and running along the southern boundary of the Farm Kinderdam No. 1685, finally connecting to the proposed new Kinderdam main transmission substation (MTS). From the Kinderdam MTS, electricity will feed into the existing Eskom Perseus/Theseus 400kV overhead powerline that runs adjacent the site. The estimated total length of the grid connection line is about 6km and will be either via 132kV steel monopole, or 400kV pylon overhead powerlines. The servitude for the proposed grid connection will be ± 55m wide. Existing farm roads and farm maintenance roads will be used, and no new roads will need to be constructed.

ApplicationDate: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 - 15:20

CaseID: 15046

Applicants: Enviroainca CC

Consultants/Experts: Jonathan Kaplan

OtherReferences:

Heritage Reports:
[Heritage Impact Assessment Proposed Visserspan PV Solar Energy Farm on Visserspan 40 near Dealesville, Free State](#)

Referencelist:

- 1 0 DBAR Visserspan Project 1.pdf
- 2 Appendix A - Locality Maps.pdf
- 3 Appendix C - Site Photographs.pdf
- 4 Appendix G3c - Visual Impact Assessment.pdf
- 5 Appendix J - Environmental Management Programme-Plan EMPy.pdf
- 6 0 DBAR Visserspan Project 2.pdf
- 7 Appendix A - Locality Maps.pdf
- 8 Appendix C - Site Photographs.pdf
- 9 Appendix G3c - Visual Impact Assessment.pdf
- 10 Appendix J - Environmental Management Programme-Plan EMPy.pdf
- 11 0 DBAR Visserspan Project 3.pdf
- 12 Appendix A - Locality Maps.pdf
- 13 Appendix C - Site Photographs.pdf
- 14 Appendix G3c - Visual Impact Assessment.pdf
- 15 Appendix J - Environmental Management Programme-Plan EMPy.pdf
- 16 0 DBAR Visserspan Project 4.pdf
- 17 Appendix A - Locality Maps.pdf
- 18 Appendix C - Site Photographs.pdf
- 19 Appendix G3c - Visual Impact Assessment.pdf
- 20 Appendix J - Environmental Management Programme-Plan EMPy.pdf
- 21 Report Environment Proposed Visserspan Grid Connection - HR.pdf



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 111 Harrington Street
 CAPE TOWN
 8001

PO Box 4637
 Cape Town, 8000
 Tel 021 462 4502/Fax 021 462 4509
 Email info@sahra.org.za
 Web www.sahra.org.za



Appendix E7 – Municipality

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X-MS-Exchange-CrossTenant-AuthAs: Anonymous

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X-OriginatorOrg: mangaung.co.za

X-EsetResult: clean, is OK

X-EsetId: 37303A293ACFC250667D6A

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:44
To: 'enquiry@mangaung.co.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the projects, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

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f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Appendix E8 – Eskom

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 12:56
To: 'John Geeringh'
Subject: RE: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Visserspan Grid Connection with potential alternate route.kmz

Dear John

Please find the kmz file of the above proposed route and substations, including farm boundaries and names. Note: the Mooihoek, Vasteveld and Kinderdam farms all have one owner who prefers for the proposed grid connection corridor to run along existing boundary fences wherever possible.

The alternate route is still just a potential option since it involves our client negotiating with Mainstream to connect via their substation just to the north of Eskom's Perseus substation (I do not think the discussions on that front have been initiated as yet).

Should there be any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



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From: John Geeringh <GeerinJH@eskom.co.za>
Sent: Friday, 06 August 2021 09:13
To: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Subject: RE: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process

Please find attached Eskom general requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes. Please send me a KMZ file of the proposed route, alternatives and proposed substation sites.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
Eskom Transmission Division
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: 011 516 7233
Cell: 083 632 7663
Fax: 086 661 4064
E-mail: john.geeringh@eskom.co.za

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.

1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.
2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.
3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.
4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.
5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.
6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.
7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.
8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.
9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where an electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.
11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.
12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by *Regulation 15* of the *Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)*.
13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.
14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.
15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.
16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.
17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Eskom Transmission Division: Land & Rights
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: 011 516 7233
Cell: 083 632 7663
Fax: 086 661 4064
E-mail: john.geeringh@eskom.co.za

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:58
To: 'john.geeringh@eskom.co.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as an I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

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a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

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Appendix E9 – CAA

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 22:03
To: 'Lizell Stroh'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as an I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



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Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 22:02
To: 'MothapoC@caa.co.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

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Appendix E10 – SKA

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 14 February 2022 13:50
To: 'smatlhane@ska.ac.za'
Cc: Bernard de witt
Subject: Overhead power line development near Perseus substation, Free State
Attachments: SARAO letter project 2 & 4.pdf

Dear Mr Matlhane

EnviroAfrica is undertaking an EIA for the Visserspan Solar PV Facilities Grid Connection near Dealesville in the Free State (DFFE Ref. No. 2021-08-0007). Your office gave comment on the actual Visserspan Solar PV Facilities which comprised four separate projects (all on Visserspan Farm No. 40, Free State).

The four solar PV projects already have environmental authorisation from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, as per the reference numbers below:

Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 1 (Ref. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/2153);
Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 2 (Ref. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/2154);
Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 3 (Ref. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/2155);
Visserspan Solar PV Facility - Project 4 (Ref. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/2156);

This email pertains to the overhead power line grid connection project which will enable the tie-in of electricity, evacuated from the above solar PV facilities, to the national grid. Grid connection will be via Eskom's existing Theseus-Perseus 400kV high voltage (HV) line to Perseus substation.

It is proposed that HV overhead power lines be constructed to along part of the boundary of two of the above sites viz. project 2 and project 4, and for a further approximates 4,5km east with a substation to be built on either 'end' of this new power line . As per the attached letters from the South Africa Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO), comment was given on all the above projects stating that:

- i. the projects do not pose any risk to the SKA;
- ii. the SARAO does not have any objection to the development of the projects and would not participate further in the environmental authorisation process.

Please confirm if the SARAO's stance for the Visserspan Solar PV Grid Connection project remains the same as for the Visserspan Solar PV Facility projects.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



Environmental Assessment Practitioner

EnviroAfrica cc

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Keren Energy Group (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 73
Somerset Mall, 7137
Email:weyers@kerenenergy.com

Date: 23 June 2020

To whom it may concern

Re: Development of Keren Energy Visserspan No 2 (Pty) Ltd PV Solar Project in the REDZ zone in Western Free State Province Dealesville

Kindly note that the above-mentioned facility will not pose any risk of interference to the SKA.

SARAO does not have any objection to the development of the project and would not participate any further in the environmental authorization processes.

Regards,



Mr Selaelo Matlhane

Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager

South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)

Tel: 011 442 2434

Email: smatlhane@ska.ac.za

www.ska.ac.za

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

Keren Energy Group (Pty) Ltd
P. O. Box 73
Somerset Mall, 7137
Email: weyers@kerenenergy.com

Date: 23 June 2020

To whom it may concern

Re: Development of Keren Energy Visserspan No 4 (Pty) Ltd PV Solar Project in the REDZ zone in Western Free State Province Dealesville

Kindly note that the above mentioned facility will not pose any risk of interference to the SKA.

SARAO does not have any objection to the development of the project and would not participate any further in the environmental authorization processes.

Regards,



Mr Selaelo Matlhane
Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)
Tel: 011 442 2434
Email: smatlhane@ska.ac.za

www.ska.ac.za

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

Appendix E11 – SANRAL

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:56
To: 'AbrahamsN@nra.co.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Vivienne Thomson

From: Mail Delivery System <Mailer-Daemon@antispam10-jnb1.host-h.net>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:57
To: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender
Attachments: details.txt; Untitled attachment 00276.txt

This message was created automatically by mail delivery software.

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

Dekockr@nra.co.za
host za-smtp-inbound-1.mimecast.co.za [41.74.197.201]
SMTP error from remote mail server after RCPT TO:<Dekockr@nra.co.za>:
550 Envelope blocked - User Entry - <https://community.mimecast.com/docs/DOC-1369#550>
[X_HQHkvdNXm4x0NitHJc5w.za52]

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:57
To: 'Dekockr@nra.co.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the project, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

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f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.



BOX OFFICIALLY CLOSED
BUSAMPTELIK GESLUIT

BC
Ms. René de Kock
South African National Roads Agency Ltd. (SANRAL)
Private Bag X20
Bellville
7536



BOX OFFICIALLY CLOSED
BUSAMPTELIK GESLUIT

BC
Ms. Nicole Abrahams
South African National Roads Agency Ltd. (SANRAL)
Private Bag X19
Bellville
7535



BOX OFFICIALLY CLOSED
BUSAMPTELIK GESLUIT

BC
Mr. JC van der Walt
SANRAL
Private Bag X19
BELLVILLE
7535

Appendix E12 – BirdLife South Africa

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 02 August 2021 11:34
To: 'info@birdlife.org.za'
Subject: FW: Request for BLSA general position/comment on HV power lines

Dear Madam/Sir

Please could you provide any comment/information on the above. Previously, I was able to download the BLSA Position Statement on the effect of solar power facilities on birds. However, when I looked on the web site on Friday, there was only one position statement and that was specifically for CPV and not for grid connection/power lines. Does a BLSA grid connection position statement exist?

We are about to commence an EIA process for a HV grid connection and are sourcing avi-faunal specialist/s to do the required impact assessment but I also wondered if BLSA had position statements on power lines (??)

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130
P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

From: Hiral Naik hiral.naik@birdlife.org.za
Sent: Monday, 02 August 2021 10:40
To: Vivienne Thomson vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Automatic reply: Request for BLSA general position/comment on HV power lines

Good day

I am no longer working with BirdLife South Africa. Please contact info@birdlife.org.za.

Kind Regards
Hiral

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Monday, 02 August 2021 10:39
To: 'hiral.naik@birdlife.org.za' <hiral.naik@birdlife.org.za>
Subject: Request for BLSA general position/comment on HV power lines

Dear Ms. Naik

Please could you provide any comment/information on the above. Previously I was able to download the BLSA Position Statement on the effect of solar power facilities on birds. However, when I looked on the web site on Friday, there was only one position statement specifically for CPV and not for grid connection/power lines. We

are about to commence an EIA process for a HV grid connection and are sourcing avi-faunal specialist/s to do the required impact assessment but I also wondered if BLSA had position statements on power lines (??)

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

P.O. Box 5367, Helderberg, 7135

w: www.enviroafrica.co.za e: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za

Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.

Appendix E13 – DESTEA (Provincial)

Vivienne Thomson

From: Mail Delivery System <Mailer-Daemon@antispam10-jnb1.host-h.net>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:44
To: vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za
Subject: Mail delivery failed: returning message to sender
Attachments: details.txt; Untitled attachment 00078.txt

This message was created automatically by mail delivery software.

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

mkhosanag@destea.fs.gov.za
host securemail-mx1.synaq.com [196.35.198.158]
SMTP error from remote mail server after RCPT TO:<mkhosanag@destea.fs.gov.za>:
550 rejected because recipient verify failed - user not found

Vivienne Thomson

From: Vivienne Thomson <vivienne@enviroafrica.co.za>
Sent: Thursday, 05 August 2021 21:44
To: 'mkhosanag@destea.fs.gov.za'
Subject: Visserspan Grid Connection Pre-Application Public Participation Process
Attachments: Maildrop.pdf

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP)

EnviroAfrica CC has been appointed by Keren Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd, to undertake the environmental impact assessment (EIA) application process for the above proposed project. **The proposed Visserspan Grid Connection project will run through the Farms Visserspan No. 40, Mooihoek No. 1547, Vasteveld No. 1548 and Kinderdam No. 1685 near Dealesville, Tokologo Local Municipality, Free State Province.** As part of the application for an environmental authorisation, a basic assessment report (BAR) is required since the proposed development falls within renewable energy development zone 5.

You have been identified as a possible I&AP for the EIA process for this project. Please see the attached notice and locality map for more detail on the proposed grid connection. Similar information was published today on page 5 of the Bloemnuus / Bloem News newspaper.

Please note: To confirm that you are an I&AP for this project (or to register as an I&AP) with any comments or queries regarding the projects, please notify EnviroAfrica in writing strictly on or before 05 September 2021, at the contact details below or in the maildrops attached.

Please also inform any other I&APs you may know about this process.

Thank you,
Vivienne Thomson



EnviroAfrica

Environmental Consultant

EnviroAfrica cc

p: +27 21 851 1616 m: +27 82 464 2874

f: +27 86 512 0154

a: Unit 7, Pastorie Park, Reitz St, Somerset West, 7130

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Please consider the environment and only print this mail if necessary.