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13 April 2023 581877

Dear Stakeholder / Authority

Basic Assessments (BAs) for Solar Energy Facilities in the Stilfontein Cluster, Stilfontein, North West Province: Opportunity to Register as an Interested and Affected Party and Release of Basic Assessment Reports for Public Review.

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd (Mainstream) proposes to construct up to nine Photovoltaic (PV) facilities with a capacity of up to 150MW each and associated grid infrastructure (Figure 1).

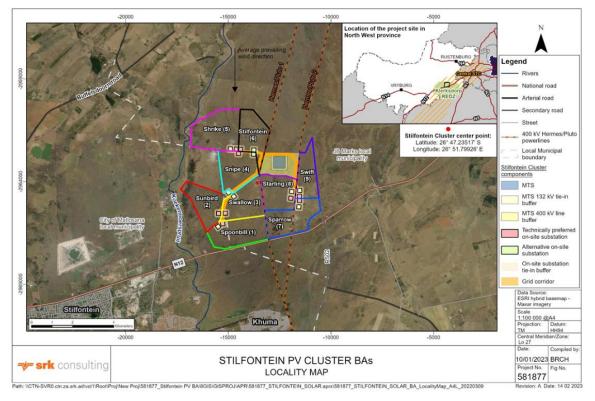


Figure 1: Location of Stilfontein Cluster

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African Offices:

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Group Offices: Africa Asia Australia Europe North America South America

CESA

Nineteen separate BA processes are underway as follows:

- 9 x PV facility BAs, including 11-33kV transmission lines, each including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and Independent Power Producer (IPP)-side on-site substations;
- 9 x Grid Connection BAs, including Eskom-side on-site substations and 132kV transmission lines to the Main Transmission Station (MTS); and
- 1 x Grid Connection BA, including MTS and 400kV transmission lines to existing Hermes Pluto transmission lines.

The National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 (NEMA), and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (promulgated in terms of NEMA) warrant that listed activities require Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE). Basic Assessment (BA) processes must be followed because the projects lie in the Klerksdorp Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ).

SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd (SRK) has been appointed by Mainstream to compile the BA Reports for the PV facilities and associated infrastructure in terms of NEMA and the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Opportunity to Register and Comment on the Draft BA Reports for the PV Facility BAs

The nine BA Reports (and executive summaries) for the PV facility BAs will be available for **public review and comment** electronically on SRK's website, <u>www.srk.co.za</u> (via the 'Knowledge Centre' and 'Public Documents' links) <u>from 14 April 2023 until 16 May 2023</u>. Should you require a hardcopy of the report please contact SRK at the contact details below and an arrangement will be made to place a hardcopy in a nearby library. In addition, nine BA Reports (and executive summaries) for the PV facility BAs are available for direct download at this cloud-based link: 581877 Stilfontein PV Draft BARs

Opportunity to Register for the Grid Connection BAs

Although the Grid Connection BAs are not yet available for comment, stakeholders are invited to register on the project database. *Only registered stakeholders will be notified of the availability of the BA Reports and invited to submit comments on the Grid Connection BA Reports*.

Comment on the BA Reports or request to register as a stakeholder must ideally be submitted via the following online form: <u>https://forms.office.com/r/RisvzNuZ6D</u> and must be received by **16 May 2023**. Alternatively, comments and / or request to register as a stakeholder may be submitted via email to Asheerah Meyer from SRK Consulting: Tel: 021 659 3060; Email: <u>Ameyer@srk.co.za</u> by **16 May 2023**.

By registering as a stakeholder, you voluntarily consent to SRK, the Project Proponent and the Competent Authority processing and selectively disclosing your personal data (including contact details), in fulfilment of the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, and the National Appeal Regulations, 2014. Personal data will only be used for the purposes of providing relevant project information (pertinent to the EIA process and related activities e.g. notifications of decisions, subsequent appeals, audits) and obtaining feedback on these processes. SRK undertakes to process data in compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act 14 of 2013 and in accordance with our Protection of Personal Information Policy.

Yours faithfully,

SRK Consulting (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd

SRK Consulting - Certified Electronic Signature SRK CONSULTING Srt677//45027/Letter 6740-1549-9651-INITEY-1304/2023 This signature has been printed digitally. The Authoritas giver/permission forts use forthis document. The details are stored in the BRK Bignaturg.Detabase

Asheerah Meyer Environmental Consultant As the proof of notification of stakeholders includes personal information these documents have been omitted from this appendix, however was submitted with the Final BAR to DFFE for their consideration.