MINUTES OF DFFE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING





SUBJECT: PROPOSED 480MW SOLAR PV FACILITY, KOEDOESKOP, WATERBERG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO

APPLICANT: ALLIED GREEN ENERGY (PTY) LTD

DFFE PRE-APPLICATION REFERENCE: 2023-07-0039

ATTENDEES		ORGANISATION	CONTACT	
Mrs Marissa Botha	(MB)	Conserva EM Services (CEMS)	conserva-ems@outlook.com	
Mrs Maryke André		Conserva EM Services (CEMS)	Maryke.andre@gmail.com	
Thembisile Mnisi		DFFE: Integrated EA	TMnisi@dffe.gov.za	
Mahlatse Shubane		DFFE: Integrated EA	MSHUBANE@dffe.gov.za	
Olivia Letlalo		DFFE: Integrated EA	OLetlalo@dffe.gov.za	
Portia Makitla		DFFE: Biodiversity	PMakitla@dffe.gov.za	
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AGENDA		ns and purpose		
ITEMS:		ct overview i.e., background, locatio	n, scope.	
	3. Provide sit			
		oject related 'Listed Activities'		
	5. Identified E			
		erified Site Sensitivity		
		Studies commissioned (incl. level)		
		icipation and Time Frames		
DUDDOOF OF	9. Discussion			
PURPOSE OF	Provide Di	Provide DFFE with a project overview.		
MEETING:	 Discuss th 	Discuss the EIA and PPP.		
	Discuss th	Discuss the specialist studies to be undertaken.		
	To record the DFFE comments, issues, and concerns regarding the pro- application.		d concerns regarding the proposed	

1. MEETING DISCUSSION NOTES:

Item no. Description	Action
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	
Marissa Botha welcomed the attendees, opened the meeting, and to opportunity to engage in a pre-application meeting.	hanked the DFFE for the
Introductions followed (see page 1 for attendees).	
CEMS have been appointed by Allied Green Energy (Pty) Ltd (AGE) environmental impact assessment process to obtain environmen development of a 480MW Solar PV Facility at Koedoeskop.	
CEMS is represented by Marissa Botha (MB) and Maryke André (I registered EAP while MB is the SACNASP registered Environmental with the applicant since the site is in the Thabazimbi area. Both consall the planning and execution of the EIA tasks.	Scientist and main liaison

Mr Roland van Tonder is the Director of AGE and is a commercial farmer and engineer based in Koedoeskop.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND LOCATION

MA did an introduction to the application in terms of the project background and location through a presentation (see attached presentation under Annexure A).

2.1 Project Background - The main points outlined included:

- AGE forms part of a group of companies i.e., Allied Group who is at Koedoeskop as follows:
 - Allied Farms (Pty) Ltd is a commercial farming enterprise producing maize, wheat, and soybean. They currently draw 5MW of electricity per day and cannot afford to be without electricity for 1-day.
 - o Allied Power (Pty) Ltd is constructing the Liverpool Solar Park at Allied Farms.
 - AGE will develop a 480MW Solar PV Facility to ensure consistent day-time electricity supply (this proposal).

The 480MW Solar PV Facility will connect to the Eskom grid via the 132kV Spitskop-Mamba OHPL crossing the application property and will link via a step-up transformer and short 132kV OHPL.

The solar facility will generate enough electricity for the Allied Farm operations, the rest will be sold to private users i.e., nearby farms and a cement mine (33%) and to Eskom (66%).

2.2 Location

Refer to slides 4, 5 and 6 of presentation under Annexure A. The project location was illustrated using satellite imagery and the site details were highlighted as follows:

- The project area is located at Koedoeskop in the Waterberg District of Limpopo.
- The application property comprises Portion 1 of the farm Zwartwitpensbokfontein 434-KQ located next to the D1234 Northam-Koedoeskop gravel road enroute to Northam. It is owned by the applicant.

3. SITE DETAILS AND SCOPE OF WORKS

At this point MB took over and explained the logic and the requirements the EAPs have identified for the proposed project. Refer to slides 7 - 12 of the attached presentation (Annexure A).

- 3.1 Site Details The following was highlighted regarding the site desktop and site analysis:
 - The property zoning is 'Agriculture' but formerly used as a game farm.
 - The site is 377-ha in extent but has an outcrop in the eastern section. The facility will be developed on the 275-ha flat portion of the site.
 - A desktop screening analysis was conducted of the site using the DFFE Screening Tool, CGS RSA 1: 250 000 Geological Maps and the Protected Areas Register.
 - The geological maps show that 75% of the site comprise non-dolomitic (flat area) but the site eastern extreme, where the outcrop is located, falls within the Madikwe Dolomite Bushveld known for its dolomitic soils.
 - The same eastern extreme is considered an Ecological Support Area (ESA) in terms of the Waterberg Bioregional Plan.

MB

- There are several private nature reserves within 5km of the application property, but these are operated as game farms. Tortoiseshell PNR is next to the application site also a private game farm.
- A site verification was done in addition to the desktop analysis concluding the following:
 - Majority of the site is covered in degraded bushveld vegetation.
 - o A very small pocket of Dolomite Bushveld is in the eastern extreme of the site.
 - There are no natural water resources present, only three artificial dams but these served as game water holes.

3.2 Scope of works and concept layout plan.

MB detailed the scope of works and presented the concept layout plan. Refer to slide 11 and 12 Annexure A.

4. NEMA LISTED ACTIVITIES, EIA PROCESS AND CA

Referring to slide 13 of Annexure A, MB highlighted that the proposal requires environmental authorisation subject to a full Scoping and EIA process as it triggers listed activity 11 under GNR 327, activity 1 and 15 under GNR 325 and activity 4, 10 and 18 under GNR 324.

The project will also require a General Authorisation from DWS: Proto CMA for Section 21 a and g water uses including Protected Tree Permits for the removal of Marula, Leadwood, and Shepard's trees present onsite during site clearing.

The identified CA is DFFE in line with NEMA S24C (3).

5. STR, SSV FINDINGS AND SPECIALIST STUDIES TO BE COMMISSIONED

MB briefly summarised the findings of the STR and site verification. Refer to slide 15 - 17 of Annexure A.

The STR indicates that the site has a very high sensitivity rating for the agriculture-, terrestrial biodiversity and landscape theme and one high sensitivity rating for palaeontology (see slide 15).

To verify the STR findings, CEMS engaged the specialist early in the process to ensure that all the sensitivities are identified and to assist with site placement.

A site sensitivity verification (SSV) took place in August 2023. A Geotechnical Investigation is underway to confirm the dolomite boundary on the eastern extreme of the site. The solar arrays will be developed on the non-dolomitic land where outcrops are absent. See slide 16 for the SSV results.

Majority of the very high sensitivity ratings are disputed given the disturbed nature of the site and the SSV findings were illustrated by means of a site sensitivity map (see slide 17). The most sensitive part of the project footprint is on the southeastern corner and western boundary of the site.

The followings specialist studies will be undertaken for the project to inform the EIA:

- Basic Shallow Geotechnical Investigation
- Agricultural Potential Study
- Terrestrial Compliance Statement due to the degraded nature of site
- Aquatic Compliance Statement
- Avifauna Regime 2 Assessment
- Level 3 Visual Impact Assessment
- Full Heritage and Palaeontological Assessment
- No Socio-Economic Study will be done since AGE will build the solar facility.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PROJECT SCHEDULE MB explained the planned public participation approach. Refer to slide 19 of Annexure A. Three rounds of public consultation would be conducted for the EIA process i.e., EIA announcement, call for I&AP registration and invitation to comment by BID. 2) Release of DSR for public review and comment 3) Release of DEIR & EMPr CEMS is busy with round 1. Tasks already conducted: I&AP Database was compiled. The DALRRD has been engaged concerning the use of land zoned for agriculture. Written notice was given to stakeholders and abutting landowners. The project is generally supported. Public notices were provided in English and Afrikaans and the advertisement was placed in English in the Platinum Bushvelder. Site notices were placed at public places and abutting farm gates. The project schedule with expected EIA activity and submission dates was provided (see slide 20). The application and DSR will be submitted to DFFE in October 2023. 7. QUESTIONS AND RESPONSE SESSION ALL Q = Question or remark by DFFE R = Response by consultant/s FR = Final Remarks Thembisile Mnisi indicated that not all listed activities applicable and listed in the presentation 7.1 were included in the pre-application form. R Noted, we will update the form to be resent and attached to the minutes of the meeting. Refer to Annexure B. 7.2 Olivia Letlalo asked the following: O a) If the connection line to the Eskom grid would be a 'Loop-in Loop out' (LILO)? Because it was indicated that the connection line from the step-up transformer to the 132kV OHPL will be short. Will the laydown area be in the area to be transformed and is it going to move as the project progresses? c) The site is next to a nature reserve, have you engaged the relevant management authority? R a) The connection line will be short as the site is next to the 132kV Spitskop-Mamba OHPL. b) We will confirm if it is a LILO line. c) During the initial stages of the development the laydown area will be in the cleared areas where the solar arrays are installed and will move and the installation progresses. The laydown area for the operational phase maintenance purposes will be located next to the security residence. d) The nature reserves are private game farms. We have engaged with all the adjacent landowners and beyond. 7.3 Q Mahlatse Shubane asked the following: a) Will the facility generating capacity be 480MW or 100MW? b) When referring to the listed activities, refrain from using the word: may, as it creates confusion. Why was a Regime 2 assessment selected for the avifauna? With the PPP, ensure you consult the affected stakeholders in the relevant languages. R It will be a 480 MW application. Because the facility capacity is more than 100 MW the DFFE is the competent authority. If it was below the 100MW threshold provincial would have been the responsible authority. b) Noted, thank you, we will refrain from using the word may. c) With regards to the avifauna, the specialist verified the site sensitivity for avifauna and rated it as being of Moderate sensitivity. There are 3 regimes and he found that it is only necessary for a Regime 2 assessment.

		d) I, MB am a resident of the area and the stakeholders, especially the surrounding landowner landowners speak Afrikaans, hence the selection of languages.
7.4	Q	Portial Mkitla a) Ensure to consult the Limpopo Conservation Plan and confirm if the application property does not fall within any of the National Protected Areas Expansion Strategy (NPAES) focus areas. b) Why is a Terrestrial Compliance Statement proposed and not a full assessment? o The EAP must confirm whether the project impacts would not merit a full assessment. o Confirm if the solar facility is compatible with the accepted land uses in an ESA. o Confirm that the project site does not fall within any threatened ecosystem as set out in the revised 2022 List of Threatened Ecosystems. c) Also confirm that the site is on non-dolomtic soil. d) Is there any aquatic life associated with the artificial dams on the site? Kindly report on it as part of the assessment. Don't ignore it because it is artificial.
	R	 a) The Waterberg Bioregional Plan was consulted (see slide 8) and is based on the Limpopo Conservation Plan. The site only coincides with an ESA in the eastern extreme. The site does not coincide with the NPAES area. b) Based on the ecological specialist site verification findings, the western section of the development property is degraded and of 'Low' sensitivity. If the developer focuses on the western section of the property and excludes the red strip on the west and southeastern corner to mitigate edge effects, the impact on ecology will be low and only a compliance statement is required. Noted the specialist will confirm this. The site does not coincide with any NPAES areas but will be confirmed in our reporting. c) The Geotechnical Investigation will confirm the geological zones on site. d) The dams will be included in the specialist assessment, but has been identified to be left intact, especially for stormwater management.
7.5	Q	Olivia Letlalo a) With the terrestrial assessment, will the proposed site and the outcrop on the property be assessed, or only the development site? b) We need to make provision for possible expansion efforts in the future as that is what we have been seeing with other applications. You must consider this. c) The findings of the heritage and paleo studies must also go to the relevant authorities. d) Buffers for all sensitive areas must be indicated clearly on the maps. e) Be sure to guard against protocols and make the information very clear.
	R	The reason we chose the focus area for the application and assessment is because not all the property is developable. The outcrops and features on the eastern section of the property is out of bounds and cannot even be considered for future expansion. The Focus Area is thus the only area they can consider for development. • We will load the HIA and PIA on the SAHRIS website. • We take note of the requirements with regards to the mapping. • With regards to the social aspects, it will not be a large construction group. It will mostly be the applicant who will be affected by the construction activities. The adjacent parties are not objecting to the proposal. We will however make sure to have good engagement.
7.6	FR CLOS	 Portia Makitla requested that in the legislative context section of the Scoping Report the EAP must include and address the Protected Areas Expansion Strategy Guideline. Thembisile Mnisi – Please be aware of the generic EMPr for solar applications. Mahlatse Shubane – The minutes must please be sent to the DFFE by the end of next week. URE
2023		of the meeting will be prepared for approval by DFFE will be available by 25 August MB as thanked for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned.

ATTACHEMENTS:

ANNEXURE A - PRESENTATION

ANNEXURE B - UPDATED PRE-APPLICATION FORM

Approved:Olivia Letlalo

Signature: Denalo

Date: 05/09/2023

Approved: Marissa Botha

Signature: A

Date: 05/09/2023

Approved: Maryke Andre

Signature: Market

Date: 05/09/2023



DFFE PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

PROPOSED 480MW SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR KOEDOESKOP, WATERBERG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO

BY ALLIED GREEN ENERGY (PTY) LTD

17 August 2023, 10:00

AGENDA

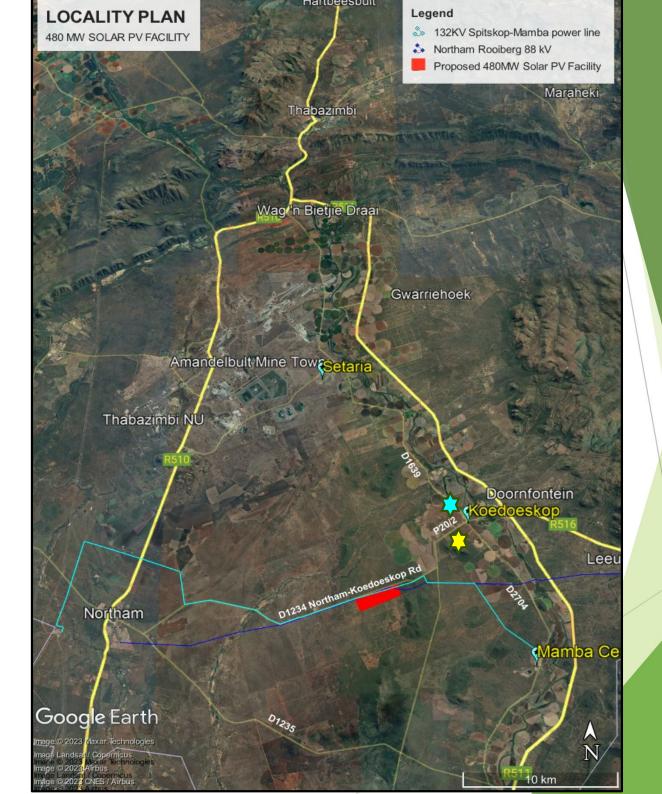
- Introductions and purpose
- 2. Give project overview i.e., background, location, scope
- 3. Provide site details
- Confirm project related 'Listed Activities'
- 5. Identified EIA Process, CA
- 6. STR vs. verified Site Sensitivity
- 7. Specialist Studies commissioned (incl. level)
- 8. Public Participation and Time Frames
- 9. Discussions

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Allied Group can't afford to be without electricity for 1-day

- The Allied Group (AG) is present in Koedoeskop as:
 - Allied Farms Pty Ltd Commercial farmers and major producer of maize, wheat, and soybean at Koedoeskop
 - Allied Power Pty Ltd Constructing Liverpool Solar Park and Hydro
- Allied Green Energy (Pty) Ltd proposes to develop a 480MW Solar PV Facility covering 275-ha to ensure consistent day-time electricity supply.
- Connect to Eskom grid via 132kV Spitskop-Mamba OHPL crossing the solar application property.
- Facility will link using an onsite substation and short 132kV OHPL.
- Solar power to be sold to:
 - ▶ 1% to Allied Farms (Pty) Ltd for commercial farming activities
 - ▶ 33%- Private users (i.e., nearby farmers, cement mine) wheeled through the national grid
 - ▶ 66% surplus sold to Eskom

LOCALITY PLAN





SITE DETAILS

- Project area is 10km from Koedoeskop, Limpopo
- Jurisdiction of Thabazimbi Local Municipality in Waterberg District

Property:

- Portion 1 farm Zwartwitpensbokfontein 434-KQ
- Owned by the applicant
- Extent of 377-ha (25% hilly in east and 75% flat on western portion).
- Facility to be developed on 250-275 ha flat terrain on western portion

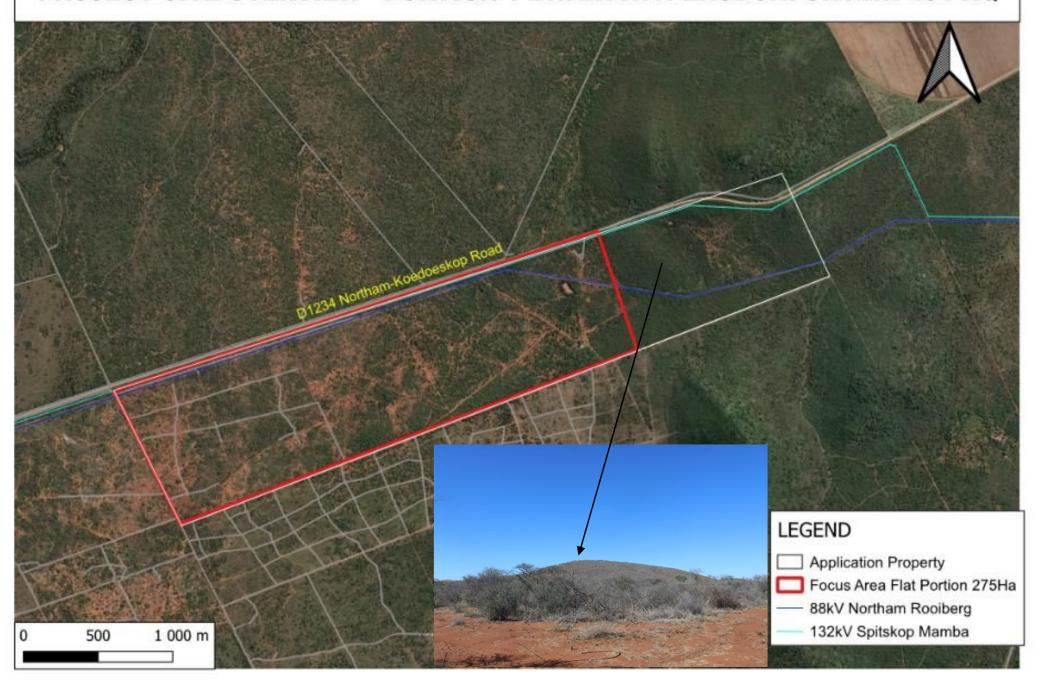
Zoning and use:

- Zoned 'Agriculture' but formerly operated as a game farm. Game sold off.
- Falls outside the Crocodile West Irrigation Scheme. No water rights, but there are existing boreholes on property.

Location of Grid connection :

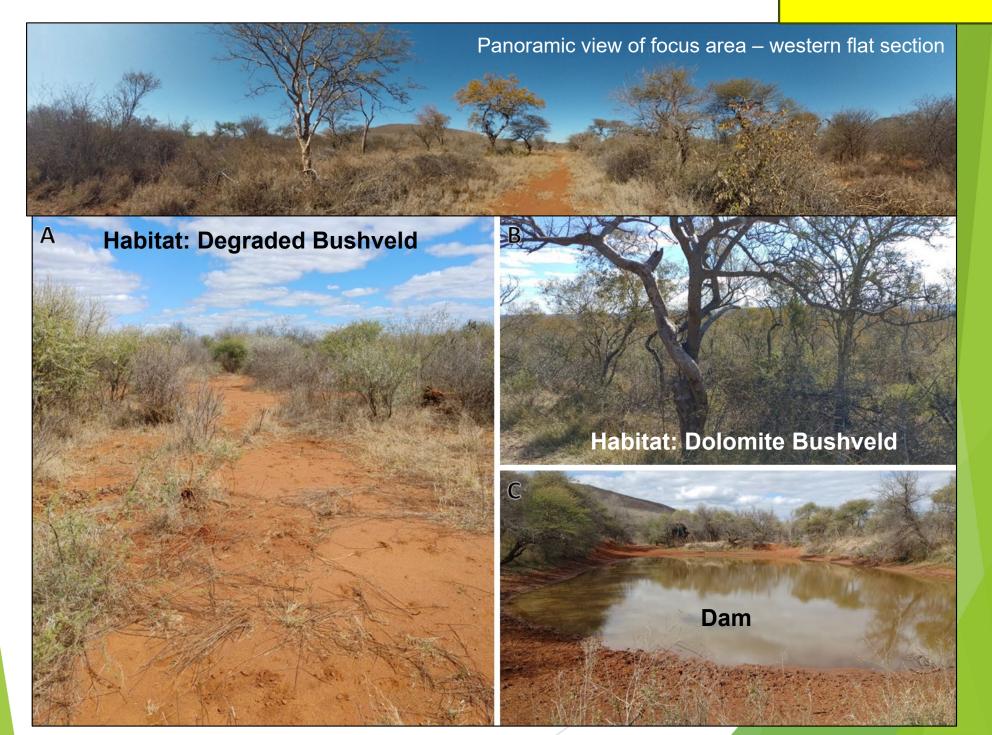
 132kV Spitskop-Mamba and 88kV Northam-Rooiberg OHPLs cross the property.

PROJECT SITE OVERVIEW - PORTION 1 ZWARTWITPENSBOKFONTEIN 434-KQ

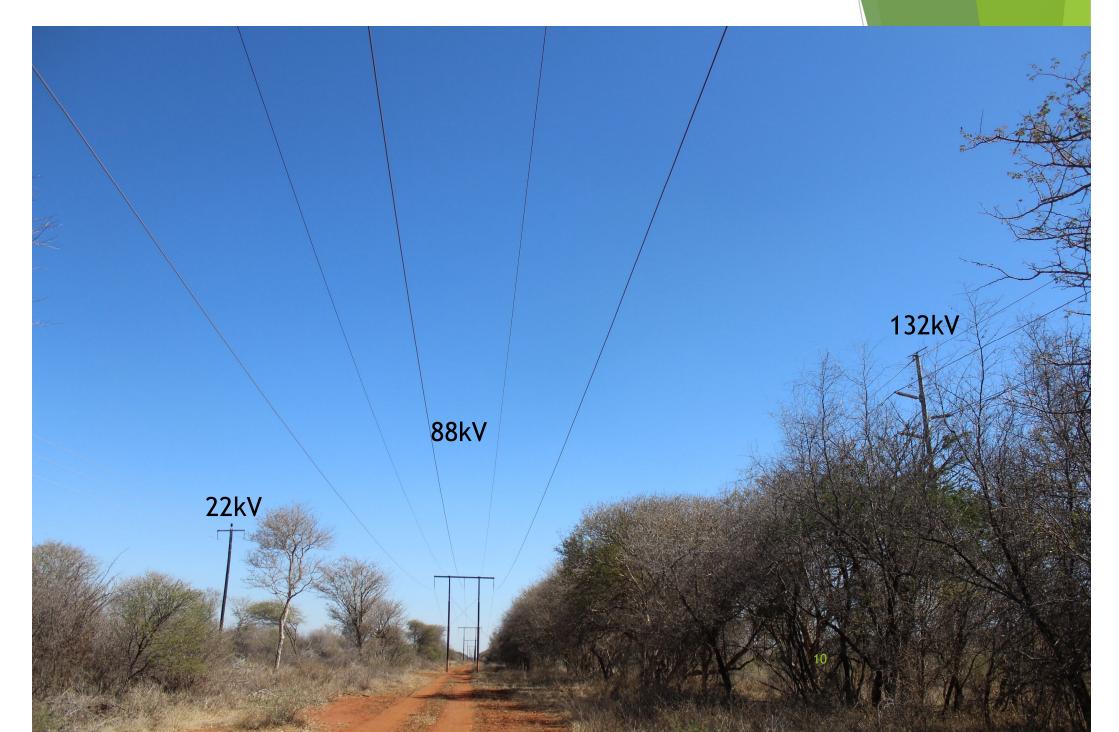


GEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF SITE Desktop Research RSA GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS DFFE STR Dolomitic vs. Non-dolomitic land PAR Geological Maps Shale and hornfels Timeball Hill Stage SAPAD Q4 - PROTECTED AREAS REGISTER 480 MW SOLAR PV FACILITY within 5km of 3 Private Nature Reserves (PNR) Sharme PNR Google Earth Koerooi PNR WATERBERG BIOREGIONAL PLAN 480 MW SOLAR PV FACILITY De Kraal PNR Tortoiseshell PNR. Mountain 35kV Spitskop Mamba Power Lines 5 km Protected Area buffer 480MW Solar PV Facility Northam Rooiberg 88 kV Private Nature Reserves (PNR) Google Earth CBA 2 132kV Spitskop Mamba power line (existing) CBA1 CBA 1 **●** CBA2 ESA Northam Rooiberg 88 kV (existing) ONA Rivers Google Earth Solar PV facility assessment area

SITE OUTLOOK - AUGUST



SITE CONDITIONS – OHPLs ON PROPERTY



PROJECT SCOPE OF WORKS

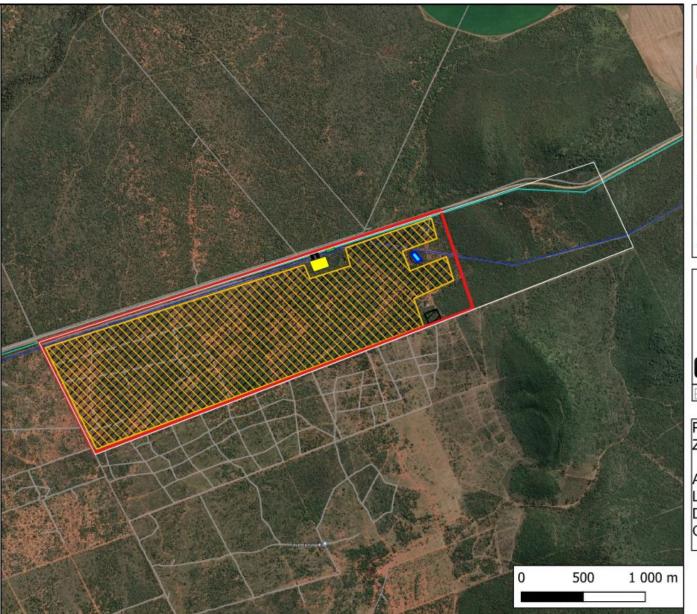
- ▶ 480MW Solar arrays consisting of 1000-Watt mono-facial panels
- Mounting structures and underground cables (AC/DC)
- Inverters and Transformers
- ▶ 132kV Onsite substation (Step-up transformer)
- Short 132kV OHPL connection to Spitskop-Mamba OHPL
- Main entrance from D1234 and internal roads
- Operations building and guardhouse @entrance
- Security residence (existing building to be upgraded)
- Perimeter fence and stormwater infrastructure
- Laydown area
 - Initially laydown and construction materials will be housed in the cleared areas where panels are to be constructed
 - Subsequently for maintenance, an area of 1-ha next to the Security residence will be used.
- NO BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

Construction Period 24-months

Facility Lifespan 25 to 30-years

AGE will build the Solar PV Facility

CONCEPT LAYOUT PLAN



LEGEND

Application Property

Solar Facility Focus Area

Laydown area

Panels & Inverters

Main entrance

Guardhous, Step up transformer

Dam

Connection to 132kV

88kV Northam Rooiberg

132kV Spitskop Mamba



Project: 480MW Solar PV Facility, Zwartwitpensbokfontein

Applicant: Allied Green Energy Pty

Ltd

Date: 15 August 2023

Compiled by: Marissa Botha



NEMA LISTED ACTIVITIES

GNR 327 (1)	GNR 325 (2)	GNR 324 (3)
Activity 11: Development of facilities for transmission / distribution of electricity (i) outside urban areas with capacity of > 33 but < 275kV. Onsite substation, grid connection	Activity 1 Develop facilities to generate electricity from renewable resource where output is 20MW or more. 480MW Solar PV Facility	Activity 4 Development of road wider than 4- meters in Limpopo (i) outside urban areas (gg) within 5km of protected area. New internal access roads wider than 4m within 5km buffer zone of 'Die Kraal ', 'Tortoiseshell' and 'Koerooi PNR.
	Activity 15 Clearance of 20-ha or more of indigenous vegetation. Clear 230-275ha of vegetation to develop solar facility	Activity 10 Instructure for storage of dangerous goods in containers with capacity of 30cbm but < 80cbm in Limpopo (i) in all areas. Onsite Substation with oil filled components may exceed 30cbm.
		Activity 18 Widening of road by more than 4- meters/lengthening by more than 1- kilometer (e) Limpopo (i) Outside urban areas (gg) Areas within 5km from protected area. Existing farm roads may need to be widened or extended for construction purposes / as internal roads for the solar facility.

SUBJECT EIA PROCESS

- Full Scoping and EIA Process
- Other permits needed:
 - General Authorisation from DWS: Crocodile Proto CMA for S21a, g water uses.
 - Protected Tree Permits (Clearance of vegetation Marula, Leadwood and Shepard's Tree present).

COMPETENT AUTHORITY

- DFFE liaised with LEDET and Samke prior
- ► Electricity-related projects are submitted to DFFE ito NEMA S24C (3).

DFFE STR SENSITIVITY THEMES

		-
Theme	STR Sensitivity Rating	F
Agriculture	Very High	•
Terrestrial	Very High & Low (CBA, ESA, abutting PNRs)	•
Plant	Low	•
Animal	Moderate	•
Avian	Low	•
Aquatic	Low	•
Landscape	Very High	
Heritage	Low	
Palaeontological	High	
Civil, Defence, RFI	Mod - Low	

Recommended Specialist Studies

- Geotechnical Investigation
- Agricultural
- Visual
- Terrestrial Biodiversity (incl. plant, animal)
- Avifauna Study
- Aquatic Biodiversity
- Heritage
- Palaeontology
- Socio-Economic
- Civil, Defence, RFI

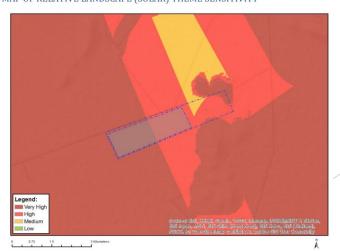
MAP OF RELATIVE TERRESTRIAL BIODIVERSITY THEME SENSITIVITY



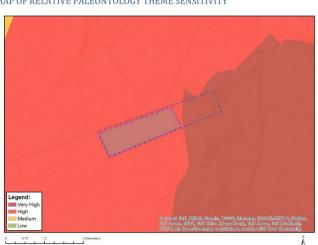
AP OF RELATIVE AGRICULTURE THEME SENSITIVITY



MAP OF RELATIVE LANDSCAPE (SOLAR) THEME SENSITIVITY



MAP OF RELATIVE PALEONTOLOGY THEME SENSITIVITY

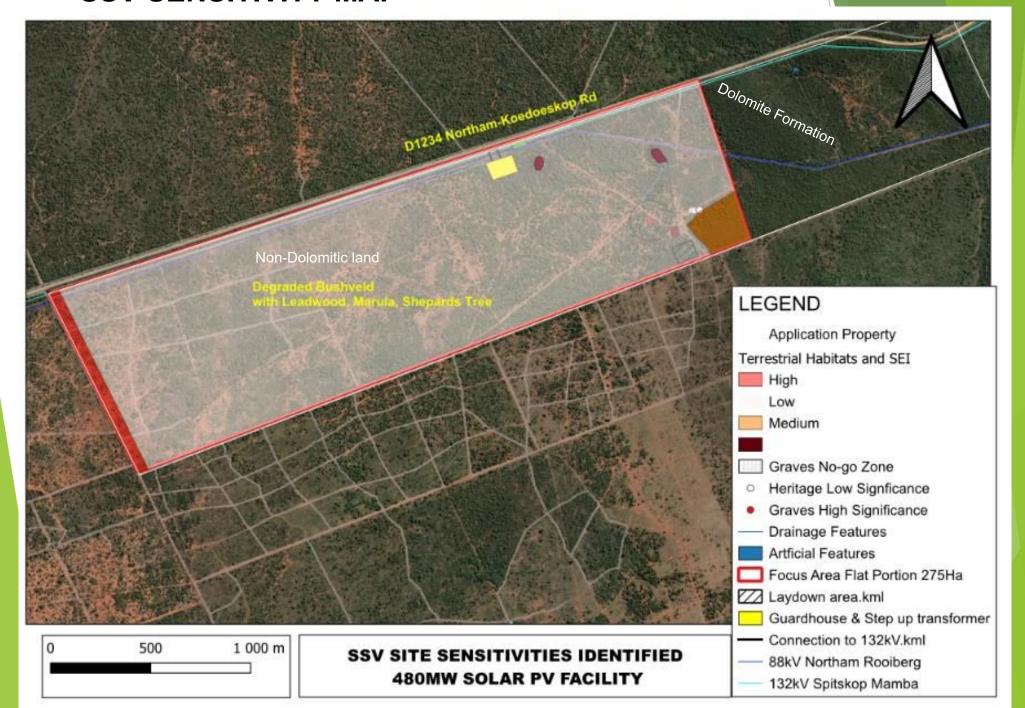


SSV SITE INSPECTION FINDINGS

- CEMS already roped in specialists
- Specialists SSV inspections done August 2023
- Geotech underway (Confirm Dolomite boundary)

Theme	SSV Findings	Validate/Dispute STR incl Reasoning
Agriculture	Eastern portion – Low Western portion: Moderate-Low	Disputed. Eastern portion rocky not plough able Western section has deeper soils but no water rights, used as game farms/ranches.
Terrestrial	Low	Disputed. Most of area regarded as low sensitivity. Significant degradation present. Only limited function of ESA vegetation was recorded
Plant	Low	Validated. No SCC. Low potential to occur, numerous protected trees.
Animal	Moderate	Validated. Certain SCC species likely to move through parts of area.
Avifauna	Moderate – degraded habitat Very Low – Modified habitat	Validated. Habitat altered with potential to support NT, SCC, CR, EN and VU SCC. Habitat generally intact, only 2 SCC expected to forage area.
Aquatic	Low	Validated. No natural water resources present. Only three artificial dams (game watering holes). Only one non-perennial drainage feature owed to surface runoff from adjacent road.
Landscape	High	Validated. Site remote, few visual receptors, but activity size and type may have high impact on visual character of area, result in intrusion of landscape resource perhaps set new precedent.
Heritage	High and Low	Disputed. Found graves onsite near security residence (high significance). Small stone structures and cultural material near security house (low significance – no historical / cultural value).
Palaeontological	High	Validated. Timeball and RooiHoogte Formations underpin site. Stromalites known to be present in these formations.
Civil, Defence, RFI	Moderate - Low	No further action required. For Civil the key stakeholders will be consulted.

SSV SENSITIVITY MAP



SPECIALIST STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN & LEVEL OF ASSESSMENT

- Basic Shallow Geotechnical Investigation
 - 20 Test pits spread-out onsite into Dolomite to confirm boundary
 - Aim to develop on non-dolomitic land to avoid CGS Drilling requirements
- Agricultural Potential Impact Assessment
 - Will excl. calculations because no water rights thus not plough able
 - Consulted DALRRD, generally support renewables but on low potential land
- ► Terrestrial Compliance Statement (Degraded)
- Aquatic Compliance Statement
 - No features, all artificial, no risk assessment required
- Avifauna Regime 2 Assessment (Moderate sensitivity)
- ▶ **Level 3 Visual Impact Assessment** (Cat 5 Development, Site character, PNRs)
- Full HIA and Palaeontological Assessments (Graves, geo formation present)

STUDIES NOT COMMISSIONED:

- Socio-Economic Applicant 'Allied Power' will build the solar facility.
- Civil Aviation theme due to airstrip at Farm Liverpool owned by Allied Group (Roland v. Tonder)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

- Approach 3 Rounds of Consultation i.e.,
 - ► Announcement EIA, I&AP registration, invite comment by BID
 - ▶ Release DSR for 30-days public review and comment
 - ▶ Release DEIR & EMPR for 30-days public review and comment
- ► I&AP Database already compiled.
- Engaged DALRRD regarding use of agricultural land.
- ► Gave written notice to abutting landowners', other solar facilities. No objections, support it. Apply security cameras.
- Public notices provided in English and Afrikaans
- Placed site notices at public places and abutting farm gates.
- Place newspaper advert in Platinum Bushvelder (English only)
- Hold landowner and key stakeholder meetings
- Release reports for comment electronically and place at public venues.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN & SCHEDULE

	Requirements	Date
PHASE	Engage DALRRD Environmental Screening Engage authorities PPP Round 1: Registration of I&APs, circulation of BID for public review Prepare Scoping Report	May & 20 June 2023 August 2023 17 August 2023 28 July – 28 August 2023 September 2023
COPING	Submission of application for environmental authorisation PPP Round 2: Release draft Scoping Report for 30-days public comment Public engagement	October 2023 October 2023
S	Submit Final Scoping Report to DFFE DFFE accept Scoping Report	November 2023 Dec '23 / Jan 2024
PHASE	Conduct specialist studies, prepare EIR & EMPrs PPP Round 3: Release Draft EIR & EMPR for 30-days public comment Engagement	Jan –Feb 2024 March 2024
EIA	Submit Final EIR & EMPrs to DFFE	April 2024
	DFFE issue decision (environmental authorisation)	August 2024?
	3E (08 /30	

Questions?





PRE-APPLICATION MEETING REQUEST

Request for a pre-application meeting in terms of Regulation 8 of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended (the Regulations)

PROJECT TITLE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR A PROPOSED 480MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FACILITY ON PORTION 1 FARM ZWARTWITPENSBOKFONTEIN 434-KQ BY ALLIED GREEN ENERGY (PTY) LTD, KOEDOESKOP, THABAZIMBI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WATERBERG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

Kindly note the following:

- 1. This form must always be used for pre-application meeting requests where this Department is the Competent Authority.
- 2. This application form is current as of **April 2021.** It is the responsibility of the Applicant / Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ascertain whether subsequent versions of the form have been published or produced by the Competent Authority. The latest available Departmental templates are available at https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms.
- 3. The onus on Applicant/EAP to determine all applicable listed activities that would require Environmental Authorisation prior to the commencement of the construction activities. Should any revision of your development comprise any other activities that constitute a listed activity/ies as defined in GN R983, R984 and R98 of 04 December 2014, as amended, it must also form part of the Application for Environmental Authorisation.
- 4. Be reminded that it is not compulsory in terms of the EIA Regulations that a pre-application meeting must take place prior to an application being lodged with the Department.
- 5. This form must be lodged with the Department at least **one (1) month** prior to the requested meeting date.
- 6. Please note that the proposed date and time will be confirmed prior to the meeting.
- 7. A detailed motivation and agenda must be appended to this meeting request.
- 8. This form must be marked "for Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations" and submitted to the Department via email.
- 9. All fields are compulsory.
- 10. The required information must be typed within the spaces provided in the form. The sizes of the spaces provided are not necessarily indicative of the amount of information to be provided. Spaces are provided in tabular format and will extend automatically when each space is filled with typing. A legible font type and size must be used when completing the form. The font size should not be smaller than 10pt (e.g., Arial 10).
- 11. Note that the EAP is required to submit minutes of the meeting to the Department for approval as per the timeframes agreed to in the meeting.
- 12. The Department reserves the right to refuse the pre-application meeting based on the information provided in this request.

Departmental Details

Online Submission:

EIAapplications@environment.gov.za

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

Physical address:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment

Attention: Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road

Arcadia

Queries must be directed to the Directorate: Coordination, Strategic Planning and Support at:

Email: EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za

1. APPLICANT CONTACT DETALS

Name of the Applicant:	Allied Green Energy (Pty) Ltd (herein after AGE)		
RSA Identity/ Passport	Company Reg no. 2022/848900/07		
Number:			
Name of contact person for	Mr Roland Weston van Tonder		
applicant (if other):			
RSA Identity/ Passport	5111275098085		
Number:			
Responsible position, e.g.,	Director		
Director, CEO, etc.:			
Company/ Trading name (if	Allied Green Energy (Pty) Ltd		
any):			
Company Registration	Reg no. 2022/848900/07		
Number:			
BBBEE status:	No status.		
Physical address:	Farm Liverpool, Koedoeskop, 0361		
Postal address:	P O Box 6, Koedoeskop		
Postal code:	0361 Cell: 083-310-8300		
Telephone:	014-785-0600	Fax:	
E-mail:	roland@farms.za.com		

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER CONTACT DETAILS

Company of Environmental Assessment Practitioner:	Conserva Environmental Management Services				
B-BBEE	Contribution level (indicate 1	None	Percenta	ge	None
	to 8 or non-compliant)		Procuren	nent	
			recognition	on	
EAP name:	Maryke André (Registere				
	Marissa Botha (Senior Env	rironmental S	cientist)		
EAP Qualifications:	M André - Btech Nature C				
	M Botha – Registered Natural Scientist (18 Years' Experience in EM)				
Professional	Maryke André - EAPASA Reg no. 2019/2007				
affiliation/registration:	Marissa Botha - SACNASP Reg no. 117526				
Physical address:	10 Knoppiesdoorn Avenue, Thabazimbi, 0387				
Postal address:	P O Box 2199, Thabazimbi				
Postal code:	0380 Cell: 072-755-5103 (Maryke)				
Telephone:	084-226-5584 (Marissa)	Fax:		No fax	
E-mail:	conserva-ems@outlook.com				

3. COMPETENT AUTHORITY

Identified Competent Authority to consider the application:

Reason(s) in terms of S24C of NEMA:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE)

The renewable energy project generating capacity exceeds 100MW therefore submitted to DFFE. All electricity-related projects are submitted to DFFE as decided in terms of Section 24C (3) of the NEMA.

Section 24C (3) of NEMA states that the Minister and an MEC may agree that applications of EA regarding any activity / class of activity may be dealt with either by the MEC, or in respect of which the MEC is identified as the competent authority may be dealt with by the Minister.

Renewable Energy projects are treated as Strategic Important Developments/Projects (SIP's), due to their potential significant contribution to the national economy. Accordingly, applications for EA under NEMA in respect of these are therefore directly made to the DFFE.

4. MEETING DETAILS

4. MEETING DETAILS			
Any advice requested before from the			
Department on this project i.e., from IQ or via email (attached response received)	Only regarding the responsible CA.		
Applicant Category	Application by Parastatal Organ of State Private Individual/Parties		X
Application type	Application for EA		Х
	Application for Integrated EA Application for Amendment EA		
Proposed meeting date and timeslot. Provide three at least a month due to logistical arrangements)	' '		 artment requires
Date	Timeslot		
	Start time	End time	
1 - 17 August 2023	10:00 11:00		
2 - 18 August 2023	10:00 11:00		
3 - 22 August 2023	10:00 11:00		
Duration of the meeting	1 hour		
Estimated number of people attending meeting	2 (CEMS EAP and Environmental Scientist) It will be an online meeting via Zoom. If MS Teams is required. DFFE should kindly schedule and send the invite.		

Please attach a proposed agenda as **APPENDIX 1**. If the Applicant or EAP intends to discuss several projects in one meeting, separate agendas must be drafted for each proposed project and the project details for each project. Please note that a detailed agenda is required.

5. PROJECT DETAILS

Project description

Capacity and grid connection:

The proposal is to develop a 480MW Photovoltaic Solar Facility on AGE owned property i.e., Portion 1 of the farm Zwartwitpensboktain 434-KQ.

The facility will connect to the national grid through the existing 132kV Spitskop-Mamba power line crossing the property.

Renewable energy end users:

The 480MW power generated at the facility will be sold as follows:

- 66% will be sold to Eskom.
- 33% to private users (i.e., irrigation farmers, surrounding mines); and
- 1% used by AGE's sister company Allied Farms (Pty) Ltd for their commercial farming activities.

Property size and development extent:

The property is approximately 377-hectares of which 25% is hilly and 75% is flat.

The facility will be developed on the 230-275 hectares comprising flat terrain on the western section of the property (i.e., assessment focus area).

The exact available developable area still needs to be confirmed based on the geotechnical conditions and findings of the specialist studies.

Property zoning and use:

- The property falls outside the Thabazimbi municipal town planning scheme.
- The property is zoned 'Agriculture' and was formerly used as a game farm.

Project components:

AGE will install 1000 Watt/panels at the facility. A new rule of 1.8MW/hectare is applied. If the available developable area is e.g., 265-hectares, the facility will be able to produce 477MW and its capacity is therefore cited as up to 480MW.

The solar facility components will include:

- 480MW Solar PV arrays consisting of mono-facial solar panels and mounting structures
- Inverters and transformers to produce power at the desired voltage.
- Underground cables (AC/DC) between the system components.
- Onsite substation
- Short onsite grid connection to the 132KV Spitskop-Mamba power line.
- Operations building (control room) and guardhouse.
- Main entrance/direct access from the D1234 Northam-Koedoeskop Road including internal access roads.
- Security residence (this is an existing onsite building that will be upgraded).
- Perimeter fence and stormwater infrastructure.
- Laydown area:
 - o Initially machinery and construction materials will be housed in the cleared area where panels will be constructed.
 - Subsequently for maintenance purposes, an area of 1 hectare will be identified at the Security residence for these purposes.

The power generated by the facility will be transferred to the step-up transformers at the onsite substation. The electricity will be transferred to the Eskom grid through a short transmission line.

Indicate if any screening has taken place on site	The facility will not have a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). A 10–15-meter fire break will be established along the perimeter fence of the facility. Please note the project falls outside the gazetted REDZ's for large scale renewable energy projects and transmission corridors. Thus, a full Scoping and EIA Process is being followed in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations of 2014 (GNR. 326). Yes. A DFFE Screening Tool Report was generated on 10 July 2023 to confirm the sensitivity themes and recommended specialist studies for the application site. A site inspection took place to confirm the STR findings and actual state of the site verses studied satellite imagery and available spatial data sets. A Site Sensitivity Verification (SSV) Report has been drafted.
Physical Address where the development will take	Farm Zwartwitpensbokfontein (currently known as Shimba Hills Game Ranch), next to D1234 Northam-Koedoeskop Road, Koedoeskop.
place	
Farm name(s)/ Erf No	Portion 1, farm Zwartwitpensbokfontein 434-KQ
Local Municipality	Thabazimbi Local Municipality
District Municipality	Waterberg District Municipality

Locality map:

A locality map must be attached to the application form, as **APPENDIX 2**. The scale of the locality map must be at least 1:50 000. For linear activities of more than 25 kilometres, a smaller scale e.g., 1:250 000 can be used. The scale must be indicated on the map. The map must include the following:

- an accurate indication of the project site position as well as the positions of the alternative sites, if any.
- road names or numbers of all the major roads as well as the roads that provide access to the site(s)
- a north arrow.
- a legend.
- the prevailing wind direction.
- site sensitivities, including but not limited to vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, heritage sites, critical biodiversity area/s, World Heritage Site, etc. and it must be overlaid by the study area; and
- GPS co-ordinates (Indicate the position of the proposed activity with the latitude and longitude at the centre point for each alternative site.
- The co-ordinates should be in degrees and decimal minutes. The minutes should be to at least three
 decimal places. The projection that must be used in all cases is the WGS-84 spheroid in a national
 or local projection)

6. ACTIVITIES APPLIED FOR

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

Please note that these triggered listed activities are provisional and will be finalised during the EIA phase based on the final Solar PV Facility layout. Amended application forms will be submitted to DFFE with the draft EIR Report for the project (if required). Stakeholders and I&APs will have the opportunity to review the final list of activities in the draft EIR.

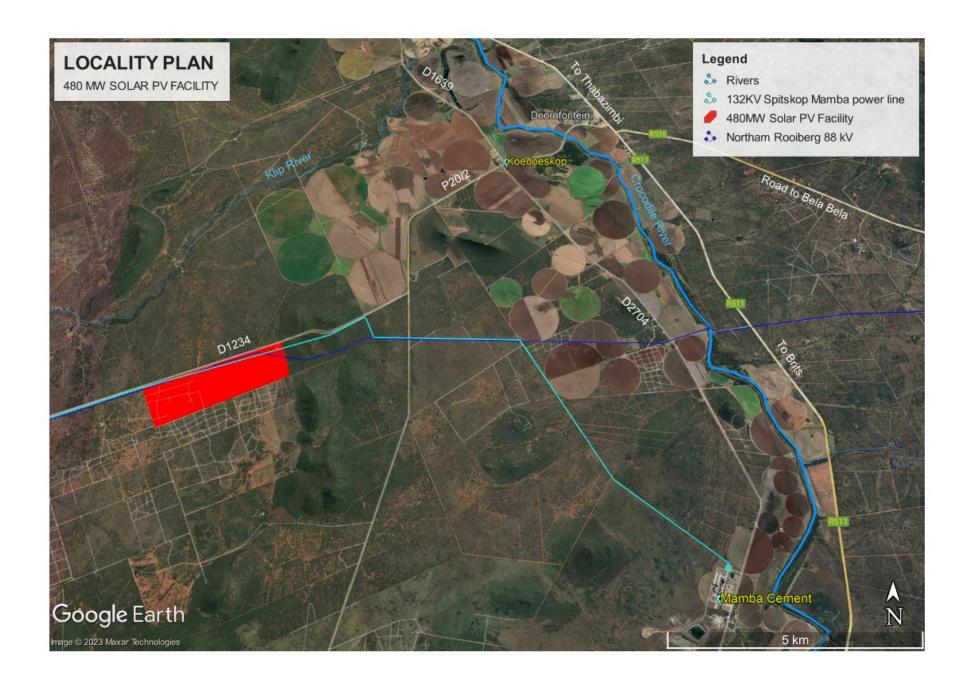
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity (i) Outside urban areas with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts.	Construction and operation of a 132kV onsite substation and short grid-connection to facilitate the connection between the solar pv facility and the national electricity grid.
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Basic Assessment Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
4	Development of a road wider than 4-meters with a reserve less than 13.5 meters (e) in Limpopo (i) outside urban areas: (gg) Areas within 5-km from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPA	The solar facility new internal access roads will be wider than 4-meters and falls within the 5km buffer zone of the 'Tortoiseshell Private Nature Reserve', 'Die Kraal Private Nature Reserve' and 'Koerooi Private Nature Reserve' in line with the Protected Area Register (PAR).
10	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of 30 m³ but not exceeding 80 m³. (e) Limpopo (i) In all areas.	The onsite substation will contain oil filled electric components (i.e., reactors, regulators, and circuit breakers) that will have a combined capacity of 30 m ³ The development property is in Limpopo Province.
18	The widening of a road by more than 4-meters or the lengthening of a road by more than 1-kilometer (e) in Limpopo (i) Outside urban areas (gg) Areas within 5km from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA.	Existing farm roads will be widened by more than 4-meters and or extended by more than 1-kilometer for construction purposes or as internal roads for the solar pv facility.
Activity No(s):	Provide the relevant Scoping and EIR Activity(ies) as set out in Listing Notice 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.	Describe the portion of the proposed project to which the applicable listed activity relates.
1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20MW or more.	The proposal is for the development of a Solar Photovoltaic Facility with a generating capacity of up to 480MW.
15	The clearance of an area of 20-hectares or more of indigenous vegetation.	The proposal is to clear 230-275 hectares of degraded Dwaalboom Thornveld to develop the Solar PV facility.

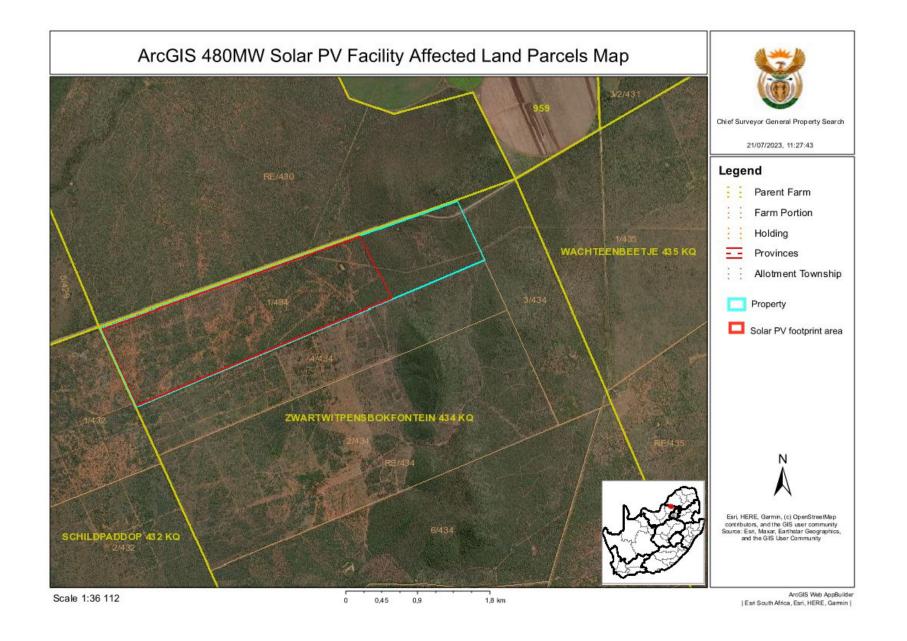
Be reminded that the onus is on the applicant to ensure that all applicable listed activities are included in the application. Environmental Authorisation must be obtained prior to commencement with each applicable listed activity.

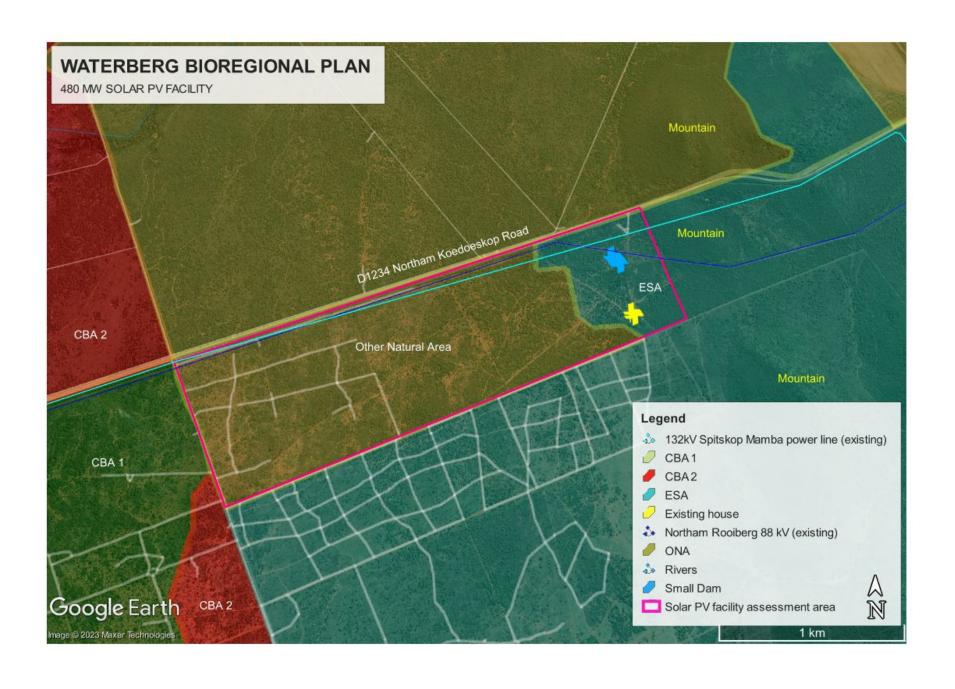
7. ADDITIONAL INFO, IF ANY

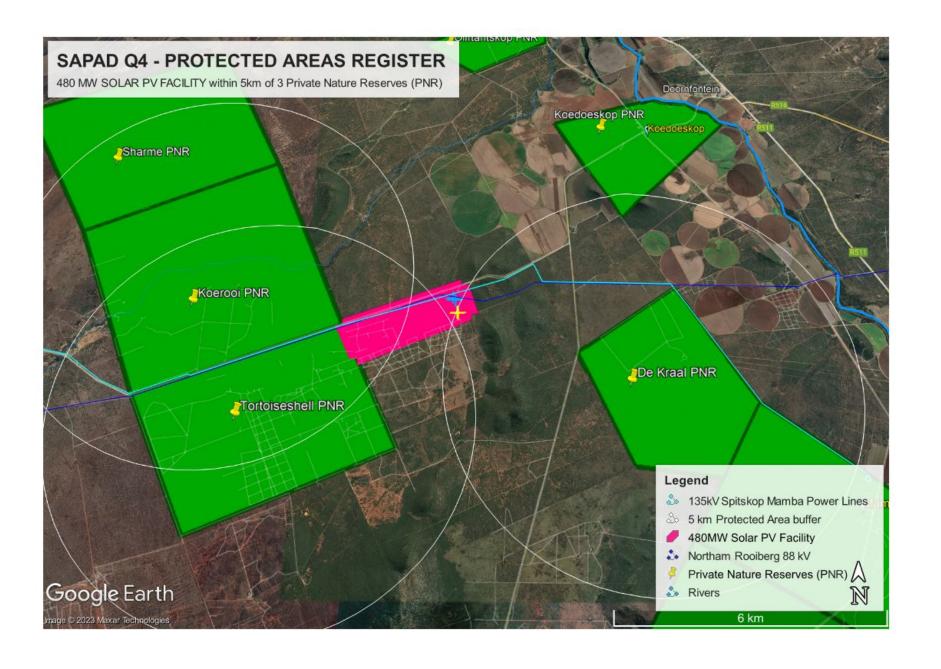
Please attach any additional information as











Here the intention is to develop the facility on non-dolomitic land. A Geote	echnical Investigation will be undertaken to confirm a conservative buffer area to be kept from the dolomitic land.

APPENDIX 3.

8. LIST OF APPENDICES

		SUBMITTED	
APPENDIX 1	Proposed Agenda	YES	
APPENDIX 2	Locality map	YES	
Error! Not a	Additional info		
valid result			NO
for table.			

APPENDIX 1 PRE-APPLICATION MEETING AGENDA

(Please note that a generic agenda will not be accepted. Please submit a detailed agenda)

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- Provide DFFE with the project background, locality, and scope of works.
- Discuss status of the site (i.e., zoning, and former land use)
- Discuss the potential listed activities related to the project.
- Identified EIA Process and Time Frames
- Screened and verified environmental sensitivities.
- Specialist studies to be undertaken.
- To record any comments, issues, and concerns from DFFE on the proposed application

DRAFT AGENDA

Facilitator:	: Maryke André / Marissa Botha – Conserva Environmental Management Services		
10:00 – 10:30	WELCOME, INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE OF MEETING	CEMS	
	PROJECT BACKGROUND, LOCALITY, STATUS OF SITE		
	SCOPE OF WORKS		
	TRIGGERED LISTED ACTIVITIES, EIA PROCESS, SCHEDULE	, PPP PLAN	
	SITE SENSITIVITY VERIFICATION		
	SPECIALIST STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN		
10:31 - 10:50	DISCUSSION SESSION (Q&A) & ANY RECOMMENDATIONS BY DFFE	All	
10:51 – 11:00	THE WAY FORWARD & CLOSURE	CEMS	

APPENDIX 2 LOCALITY MAP

LOCALITY MAPS INCLUDED OVERLEAF

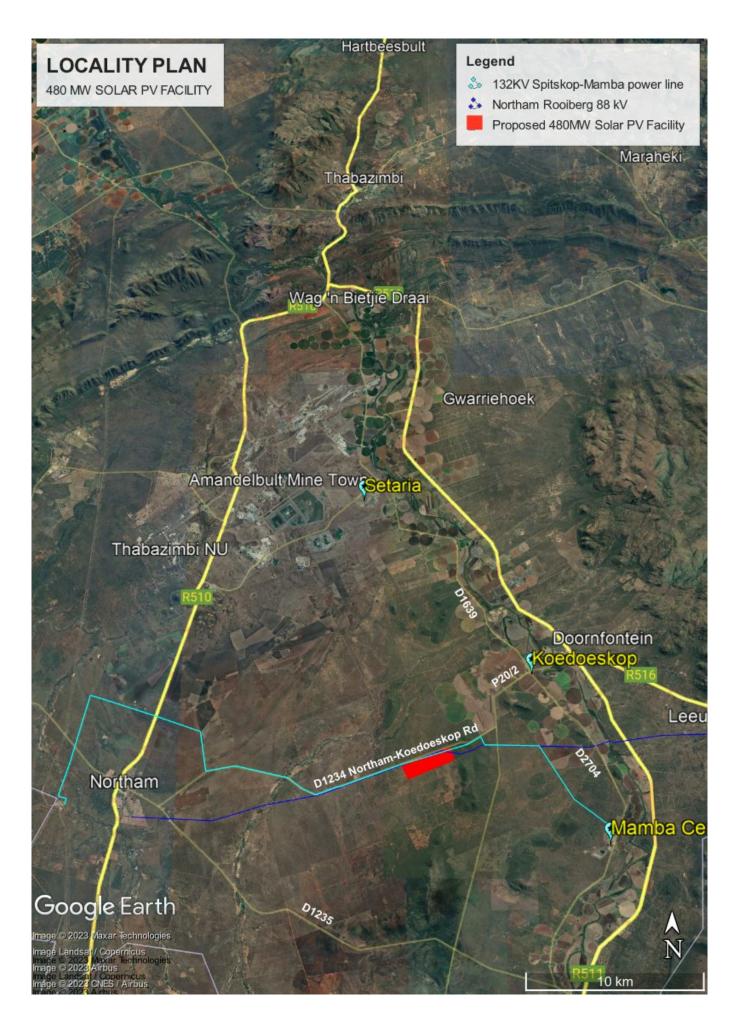
APPENDIX 2.1 & 2.2: REGIONAL LOCALITY MAP

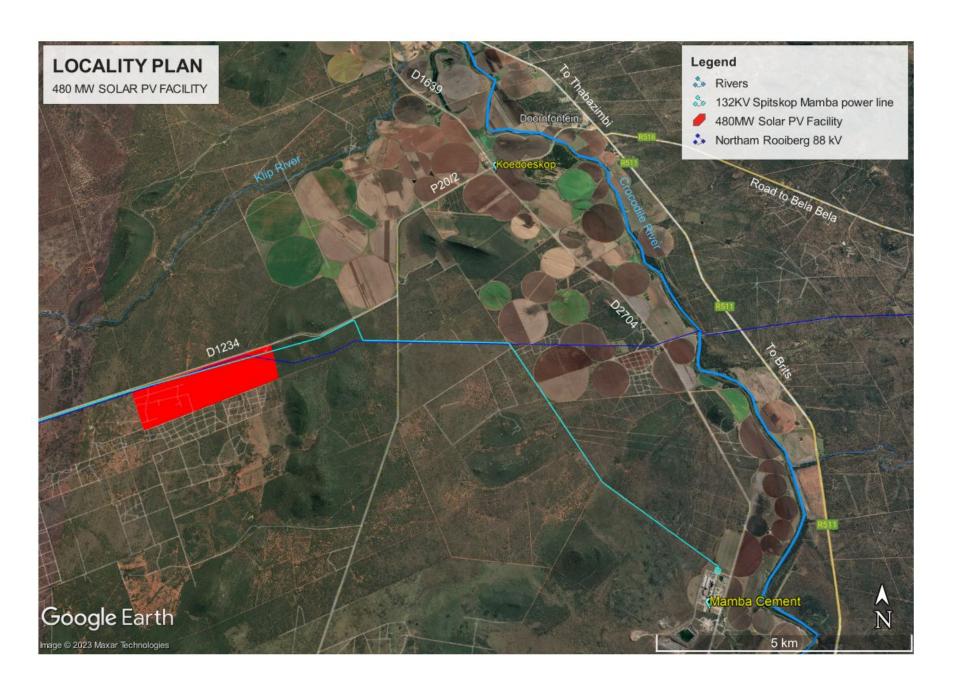
APPENDIX 2.3: MAP SHOWING AFFECTED LAND PARCEL

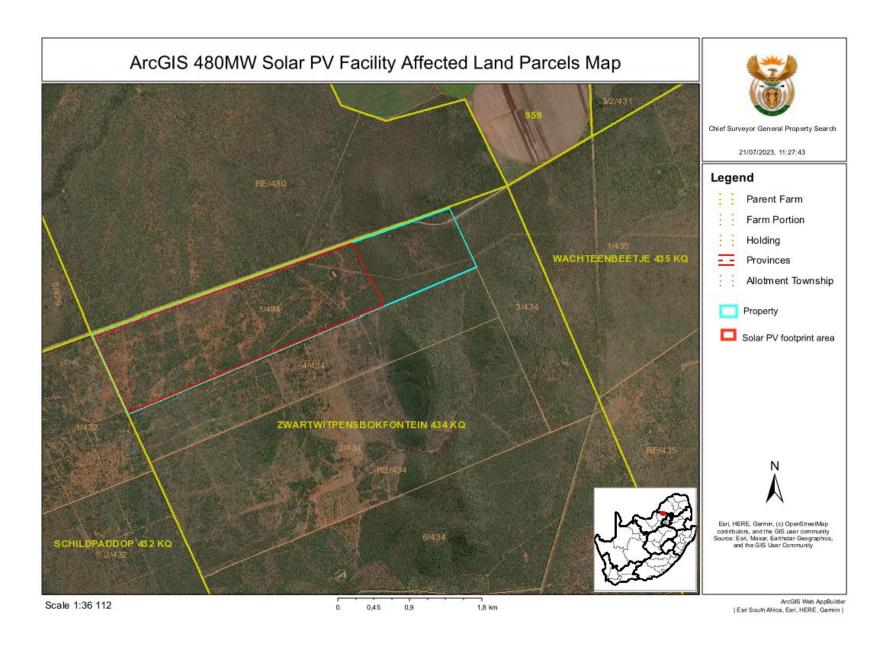
APPENDIX 2.4: SITE SENSITIVITIES MAP (WATERBERG BIOREGIONAL PLAN)

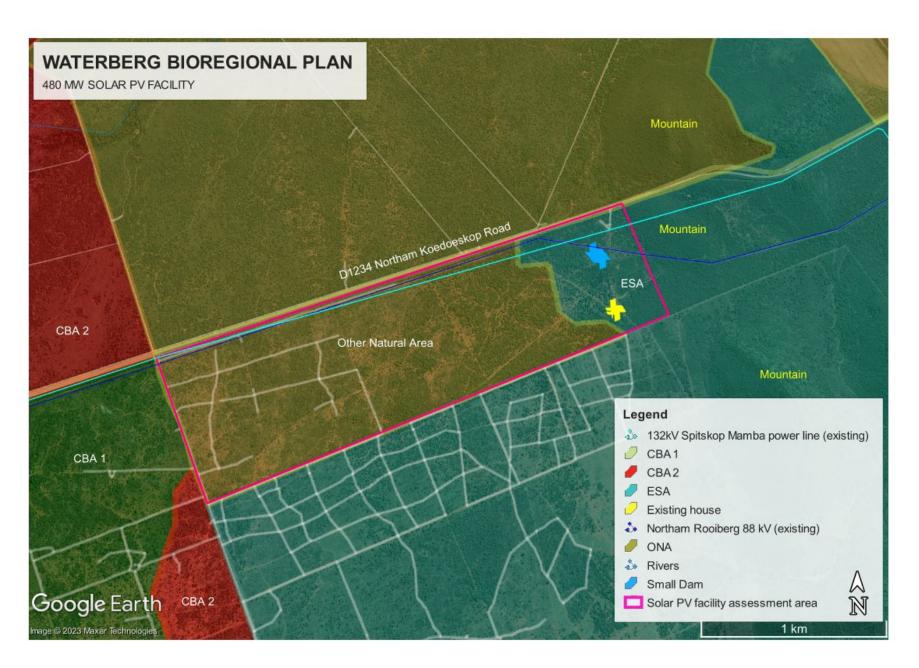
APPENDIX 2.5: SITE SENSITIVITIES MAP (PAR REGISTER – 5KM BUFFER OF PROTECTED AREAS)

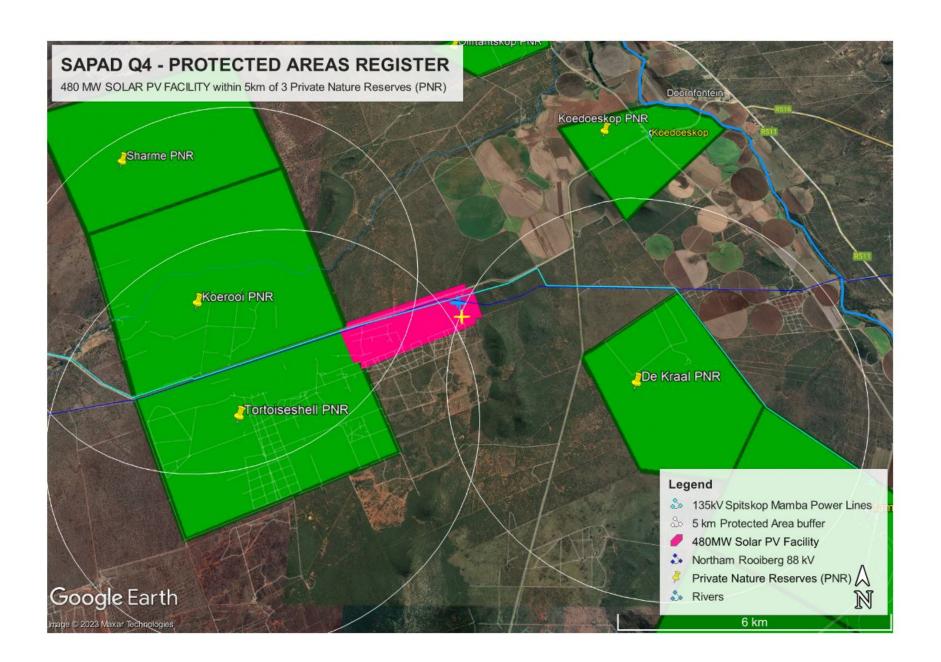
APPENDIX 2.6: SITE GEOLOGY













Here the intention is to develop the facility on non-dolomitic land. A Geotechnical Investigation will be undertaken to confirm a conservative buffer area to be kept from the dolomitic land.

APPENDIX 3 ADDITIONAL INFO, IF ANY