

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC (SOLAR) ENERGY FACILITIES ON DU PLESSIS DAM FARM NEAR DE AAR, NORTHERN CAPE

DEA AND NEAS REF. NO'S

PV2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/454; DEA/EIA/0001774/2013

PV3: 14/12/16/3/3/2/455; DEA/EIA/0001772/2013

PV4: 14/12/16/3/3/2/456; DEA/EIA/0001773/2013



23 JULY 2013



UPDATE OF DRAFT TO FINAL SCOPING REPORT

This Update Page describes the process followed since the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 40-day comment period from 30 April 2013 till 10 June 2013. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the DSR in response to the public participation process.

Public Participation Process regarding the lodging of the Draft Scoping Report

The public participation process undertaken during the lodging of the DSR entailed the following:

- Advertisements were placed in the local newspaper, the *Die Volksblad* on 30 April 2013, notifying the broader public of the initiation of the EIA and inviting them to register as I&APs from 30 April 2013 till 10 June 2013;
- Two site notices were placed at the Du Plessis Dam farm;
- The DSR were lodged in the De Aar Public Library (Station Street), the Emthanjeni Municipal buildings (Voortrekker Street) (contact person: Mrs C. Kloppers) and were also available for download from Aurecon's website (<http://www.aurecongroup.com>- indicate "Current Location" as "South Africa" and click on the "Public Participation" link).
- Potential I&AP's were notified of the availability of the report by means of letters.

Written comments received during the comment period have been noted in the Comments and Response Report 1 (CRR1), included in **Annexure B** of the Final Scoping Report (FSR). Below is a brief overview of the comments received:

- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) - requested that the heritage reports be made available for comment. Aurecon responded that the heritage specialist studies will be incorporated into the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (DEIAR). The DEIAR and the Heritage Impact Assessment will be provided to SAHRA for comment at the EIA stage.
- The DoE and Transnet indicated their support for the projects.

Updating of the DSR to the FSR

A limited number of changes were made to the DSR. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

General changes to the FSR:

A number of minor changes were made to the Report which includes:

- The DSR has been updated and is now called: "Proposed photovoltaic (solar) Energy facilities on Badenhorst Dam farm near De Aar, Northern Cape. Final Scoping Report.
- Grammatical and typographic changes.
- The project description was updated to indicate that transmission lines and substations and water supply infrastructure would be constructed on-site.
- The section on policies regarding greenhouse gas and carbon emissions was updated to include the latest information.

Annexures have been updated as follows:

- Comments on the DSR and proof of the PPP have been included in **Annexure B**.

Way forward

This Update Page, along with a letter notifying interested parties of the availability of the FSR, were sent to all registered I&APs on the database. The FSR was made available to the public at the same venues as the DSR, as well as on Aurecon's website. Please submit your comments to Aurecon during the 21-day comment period, from **23 July 2013** to **12 August 2013**.

The FSR and the Plan of Study for EIA were submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs for their consideration and review. I&APs will be informed of the Department of Environmental Affairs decision on the Plan of Study for EIA.

Aurecon would like to thank all those who have participated in this EIA process thus far.