

**APPENDIX I**  
**COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT (CRR)**

# PROPOSED SERE SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT PHASE 1A AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, WESTERN CAPE

## DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

### COMMENTS & RESPONSES REPORT

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July 2022



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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd (the Applicant) intends to develop a solar photovoltaic (PV) plant within their existing SERE Wind Farm facility located in the Matzikama Local Municipality falling within the West Coast District Municipality in the Western Cape Province. Nemaï Consulting has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the Environmental Authorisation (EA) process for Phase 1A of the proposed Solar PV Plant.. The associated infrastructure includes access roads, underground interconnection power line / cable, and control building(s).

## **2 BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

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An Application for Environmental Authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014 (as amended) has been made for the proposed Project. In terms of the aforementioned Act, the lead decision-making authority for the environmental assessment is the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

The process for seeking authorisation is undertaken in accordance with Government Notice No. R. 982 of 4 December 2014 (as amended). The Project triggers activities listed in Listing Notices 1 and 3, therefore, a Basic Assessment Process is being undertaken..

## **3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

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This Comments and Responses Report (CRR) serves to record the comments received from authorities and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) as part of the public review of the following:

- The Project Announcement Phase undertaken 26 November 2021 – 17 January 2022; and

The Final CRR will contain the comments received from the review of the Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) that will be lodged for public review under the current Basic Assessment process from 01 August 2022 – 31 August 2022.

This CRR also attempts to address these comments through responses and input provided by the Applicant, project team, EAP and environmental specialists (as relevant).

#### 4 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES – REVIEW OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT (PREVIOUS EIA PROCESS)

Note that the Announcement Phase of the EIA Process refers to the period before the submission of the Application Form to the Competent Authority. A record of all comments/concerns received during the Announcement Phase are included in the sections below.

The comments received will provide an understanding of the potential concerns related to the Project and guide the current assessment that is underway.

No.	COMMENT / QUERY / ISSUE	RAISED BY	SOURCE	RESPONSE BY	RESPONSE
1.	<p>Please register the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as a commenting authority for the BA process. You may add me as the Department's contact person.</p> <p>Please notify me when the Draft BAR is available for comment. We prefer to receive notifications via email. We are also working remotely and do not require hard copies of the BAR. Please provide us with a link to download the BAR and appendices. Could you also provide me with the Screening Tool Report when you release the Draft BAR?</p>	A. La Meyer (Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning)	Reply Form (01-12-21)	Nemai Consulting	<p>We confirm that the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning has been registered as a commenting authority and your details have been confirmed as the contact person.</p> <p>Notification of the Draft BAR will be sent via email, and a link will be provided to access the full report and appendices electronically.</p> <p>The Screening Report will be included under Appendix B of the Draft BAR.</p>
2.	<p>I assume that no BESS would be required for the proposed solar PV facility as Eskom was granted an EA (reference 14/12/16/3/3/1/2065) to develop one. Please confirm?</p> <p>Lastly, I assume you have notified HWC and CapeNature of the proposed application?</p>	A. La Meyer (Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning)	Email (01-12-21)	Nemai Consulting	<p>We confirm that no BESS is included in the Proposed SERE PV Phase 1A Project.</p> <p>We confirm that the HWC and CapeNature have both been notified of the proposed application. In addition an NID application will be submitted to the HWC.</p>
3.	<p>Please find the SACAA procedure to follow towards Solar farms:</p> <p>There is a SACAA process whereby permission is applied for wrt obstacles which could pose an aviation hazard. More information can be obtained at <a href="http://www.caa.co.za">http://www.caa.co.za</a>. Click on information for industry 'Obstacles' on the LHS. Forms, Part 139-27 and submit on the form itself.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindly provide a .kml (Google Earth) file reflecting the footprint of the proposed development site including the proposed overhead electric power line</li> </ul>	L. Stroh (South African Civil Aviation Authority)	Email (29-11-21)	Nemai Consulting	<p>Thank you for the information and forms and procedures. These have been provided to Eskom for further response, as relevant.</p> <p>Kindly note that there will be no overhead powerline associated with the Proposed Project, and thus it is not anticipated that the Project will present any obstacles for aviation.</p> <p>The interconnection powerline/cable that will evacuate electricity from the PV site to the existing substation will be underground.</p> <p>The highest structure will be approximately 6m, should</p>

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	<p>route that will evacuate the generated power to the national grid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also indicate the highest structure of the project &amp; the Overhead electric power transmission line</li> </ul> <p>Please note that this assessment process would be done by the SACAA, up to the 31 January 2022.</p> <p>The assessment process would be transfer to ATNS, find notice as reference.</p> <p><a href="http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Default.aspx">http://www.caa.co.za/Pages/Default.aspx</a></p> <p>Please find an extra to the SACAA regulation, that could form part of your comments, as well the processes to follow.</p>				<p>the tracking technology be utilised, alternatively, if fixed technology is used for the PV panels, the structures will be approximately 3m in height.</p>
4.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further to the below, please send on the BID as in your notification. Google has security issues with the link provided.</li> <li>Thank you for the attached. The links lead to the below security warning which does not allow me to move further</li> </ol>	I. Adams (CapeNature)	Emails (26-11-21)	Nemai Consulting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thank you for your email response. Please find attached the BID. Below is two links for you to try: <a href="https://nemai.co.za/environmental/downloadable-documents/">https://nemai.co.za/environmental/downloadable-documents/</a> <a href="https://nemai.co.za/10738-sere/">https://nemai.co.za/10738-sere/</a></li> <li>The error you have received is linked to your browser not being able to verify if the website is safe or not. Since I have been able to follow the link and access the site on various devices, it may just be a temporary glitch that your browser may be experiencing, which hopefully will be short-lived. Thank you for letting me know. For the time being, you have a copy of the BID with Reply Form at the end, which is the only document loaded on our website currently.</li> </ol>
5.	<p>Thank you for your email.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I'm unable to access the BID. Kindly can you send those documents and a shapefile/ locality map.</p>	M. Simons (CapeNature)	Email (26-11-21)	Nemai Consulting	<p>Thank you for your email. I have received an email from Ismat Adams as well saying that he cannot access the site. For the time being it seems to be an isolated issue. Please find attached a copy of the BID which includes a locality map.</p>
6.	The National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the	A. Maifo	Email	Nemai	We confirm that DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity

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	<p>Environment (DFFE), Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation would like to register as the interested and affected party for the mentioned project. Please notify us as soon as the report becomes available.</p> <p>Please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>	(Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment - Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation)	(30-11-21)	Consulting	<p>Conservation has been registered.</p> <p>Notification of the Draft BAR will be sent via email, and a link will be provided to access the full report and appendices electronically.</p>
7.	I saw bird strikes are big problem so maybe one can add mitigation for birds approaching the wetlands.	P. Ackerman (Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Sub Directorate Instream Water Use)	Email (26-11-21)	Nemai Consulting	<p>An Avifauna Impact Assessment was undertaken for the Proposed Project and can be found under Appendix D2 of the Draft BAR.</p> <p>To note is that there are not wetlands within the vicinity of the Proposed Project.</p>
8.	May I kindly request that myself, C. Stander, with e-mail address ( <i>removed</i> ), be registered as an I&AP in the SERE Solar PV Plant Phase A1 and Associated Infrastructure EA process going forward? I would also request that confirmation of registration be sent through when possible.	C. Stander (G7 Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd)	Email (07-06-22)	Nemai Consulting	<p>We confirm that you have been Registered as an I&amp;AP for the SERE Solar PV project.</p> <p>We are currently updating specialist studies based on site layout options and hope to proceed with placing the draft Basic Assessment Report for public review in due course.</p> <p>As a registered I&amp;AP you will receive an email notifying you of the draft report review and providing a link to download the report from our website.</p>
9.	Attached please find the completed registration form for the West Coast District Municipality for the proposed Solar Development on Erf 1862, Olifantsriviernedersetting.	D. Joubert (Municipal Manager - West Coast District Municipality) D. Kotze (Town and Regional Planner – West Coast District Municipality)	Email and Reply Form (11-01-22)	Nemai Consulting	We confirm that you have been Registered as an I&AP for the SERE Solar PV project.
10.	<p>Your Background Information Document dated 25 November 2021 has reference.</p> <p>Transnet Pipelines, a division of Transnet SOC Limited, is not affected by the proposal.</p> <p>Your awareness of the existence of Transnet's pipeline servitudes and concern for their integrity is highly appreciated.</p>	M. Hadebe (Transnet)	Email (26-11-21)	Nemai Consulting	Thank you for your response. We note that no Transnet pipelines will be affected by the Proposed Project.

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11.	<p>HWC hereby acknowledges receipt of your email.</p> <p>However, please note that HWC has implemented a new naming convention for the CEO mailbox (ceoheritage@westerncape.gov.za).</p> <p>To ensure that your email is correctly allocated thus ensuring a timeous response, please use the naming convention in the SUBJECT LINE of all emails sent to this mailbox as outlined below.</p>	Heritage Western Cape	Email (25-11-21)	Nemai Consulting	Thank you for your email and information, it is noted.