

Your reference N/A
Our reference 13303 - Tlisitseng
Date 29 September 2016

Dear Interested and/or Affected Party

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (EIAs) FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE TWO (2) TLISITSENG 75MW SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITIES, AND BASIC ASSESSMENTS (BAs) FOR THE ASSOCIATED 132kV POWER LINES NEAR LICHTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE (DEA REFERENCE NUMBERS TO BE CONFIRMED)

- **INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EIA AND BA PROCESSES**
- **AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

In terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), SiVEST SA (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as SiVEST) has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) by BioTherm Energy (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as BioTherm) to conduct the EIA processes for the proposed development of the two Tlisitseng 75MW solar photovoltaic (PV) energy facilities and the BA processes for the associated 132kV power lines. The proposed projects are located in the North West Province near Lichtenburg and will be referred to as Tlisitseng 1 Solar, Tlisitseng 2 Solar, Tlisitseng 1 Power Line, and Tlisitseng 2 Power Line.

SiVEST would like to invite you, as a potential Interested and/or Affected Party (I&AP), to become actively involved in the public participation process for this proposed projects. The aim of this process is as follows:

- to ensure that all the relevant environmental impacts are taken into consideration;
- to ensure public input; and
- provide decision-makers with sufficient information to make an informed decision on the proposed activities.

Attached is the Background Information Document (BID) which contains information regarding the proposed project as well as the EIA, BA and public participation process.

The Draft Scoping Reports (DSRs) for the proposed development of the two (2) proposed Tlisitseng 75MW solar PV energy facilities will also be available for public comment and review as from **Thursday 29 September 2016 to Monday 31 October 2016** (end of business day). Should you wish to receive an electronic copy of the DSRs (CD) please forward your request in writing to us. Hard copies of the DSRs can be reviewed at the following public place:

VENUE	STREET ADDRESS	HOURS	CONTACT NO
Lichtenburg Public Library	Nelson Mandela Drive, Lichtenburg	Mondays- Thursdays 09h00 – 17h30 Fridays 09h00 – 17h00 Saturdays 09h00 – 12h00	018 633 3904

The reports are also available on SiVEST's website: <http://www.sivest.co.za/>, then browse to the folder '13303 Tlisitseng PV Energy Development'.

It is important to note that these DSRs are the second versions which will be submitted to the DEA and made available for public comment. On the 18th of January 2016 applications for environmental authorisation (EA) and the

DSRs for the two (2) proposed Tlisitseng 75MW solar PV energy facilities were received by the DEA and reference numbers were allocated to the proposed developments (**DEA reference numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/2/889 and 14/12/16/3/3/2/890**). These original DSRs were made available for public review from 11 January 2016 to 9 February 2016. The DSRs were thereafter updated and the Final Scoping Reports (FSRs) were submitted to the DEA on 19 February 2016. After evaluating the FSRs the DEA issued letters indicating that the documents complied with the minimum requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and that SiVEST could proceed with the EIA processes. The original FSRs were therefore accepted by the DEA. It should however be noted that due to a change in the layout of the two (2) proposed Tlisitseng 75MW solar PV energy facilities, SiVEST was not able to submit the Final Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (FEIARs) within the legislated timeframes. On 20 June 2016, SiVEST sent the DEA a letter requesting a sixty (60) day extension in terms of Regulation 3 (7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, in order to provide the specialists with the opportunity to update their specialist reports in-line with the revised layouts. On 20 July 2016, the DEA issued a letter refusing the extension request. For this reason the applications for EA lapsed in accordance with Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and the departmental files were closed for the projects.

In order to reapply for EA for the two (2) proposed Tlisitseng 75MW solar PV energy facilities, BioTherm has appointed SiVEST to recommence with the EIA and BA processes. It should however be noted that all comments received by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) during the Public Participation Process (PPP) which was undertaken for the original EIA processes (including those received during meetings) will form part of this EIA process. The public participation process will be re-conducted in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 and all I&APs, Stakeholders and Organs of State will be afforded an extra opportunity to review the DSRs and to provide comments.

By completing and submitting the accompanying registration and comment form, you will be registered as an I&AP on the project database.

We would like to thank you, in advance, for becoming part of the public participation process and are looking forward to receiving your valuable comments relating to the proposed project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Gibb".

Andrea Gibb
Environmental Practitioner
SiVEST Environmental Division

encl: Background Information Document (BID)
Registration and Comment Form