

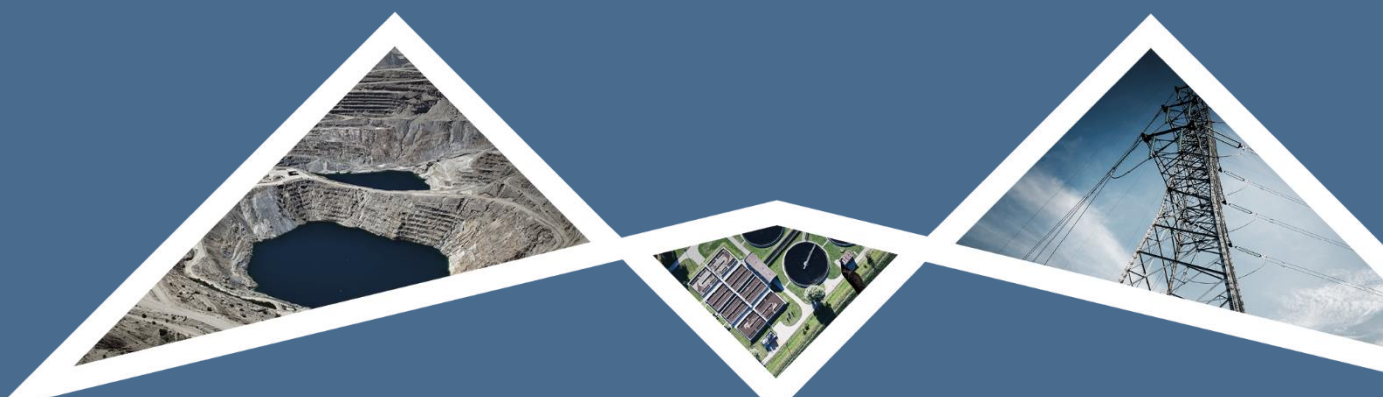


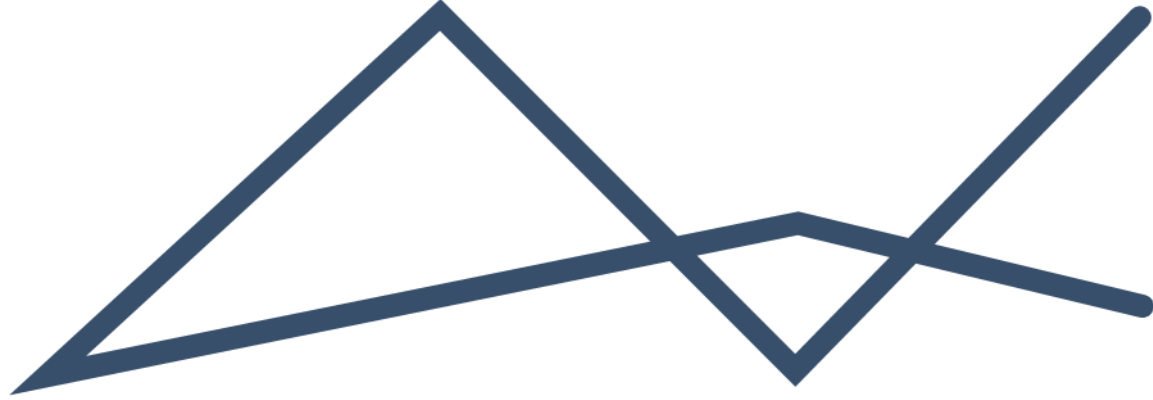
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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REPORT

MULILO STRUISBULT PV2 GRID CONNECTION BASIC ASSESSMENT





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Abbreviation List:

DFFE	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
EA	Environmental Authorisation
EAP	Environmental Assessment Practitioner
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
I&AP	Interested and Affected Party
LILO	Loop-In Loop-Out
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NWA	National Water Act
PPP	Public Participation Process
PPR	Public Participation Report



1 INTRODUCTION

Mulilo Renewable Projects Developments (Pty) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the applicant) has appointed Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS) as Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to assist with compiling the necessary reports and undertaking the statutory consultation processes in support of applications for:

- Environmental Authorisation (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998 – NEMA) – Listed activity/ies:
 - GNR983 Listing Notice 1: Activity 11.

The Applicant is in the process of preparing Struisbult PV2 solar facility for a private off-taker. One of the Eskom conditions received for connecting the project to the grid is to build an additional 8.8 km 132 kV line between Kronos and Cuprum substations. The Applicant proposes construction of the required 132 kV line alongside an existing powerline servitude with associated grid connection infrastructure which includes an access road to the Struisbult PV2 Substation, an approximately 1 km Loop-In Loop-Out line (LILO) and an approximately 8.8 km 132 KV Transmission Line along the existing Kronos-Cuprum Transmission Line.

The proposed project site is within the following properties: Farm Vogelstruisbult 104, Farm Klippats Pan 117 and Farm Hoekplaas 146 near Copperton, Siyathemba Local Municipality, Northern Cape.

- The access road to the Struisbult PV2 Substation has the following coordinates:
 - Start: 29°56'16.91"S and 22°19'20.32"E;
 - Middle: 29°56'31.73"S and 22°19'20.36"E; and
 - End: 29°56'31.76"S and 22°19'37.80"E.
- The LILO Line has the following coordinates:
 - Start: 29°56'31.94"S and 22°19'38.99"E;
 - Middle: 29°56'49.14"S and 22°19'39.43"E; and
 - End: 29°57'9.54"S and 22°19'39.64"E.
- The new 132 KV Transmission Line has the following coordinates:
 - Start: 30°01'25.43"S and 22°20'17.36"E;
 - Middle: 29°59'24.65"S and 22°19'39.06"E; and
 - End: 29°57'33.45"S and 22°18'02.27"E.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

South Africa, being one of the countries with the most progressive constitutions, enshrined the public's right to be involved in decisions that may affect them in its Constitution. Section 57(1) of the new Constitution that provides: "*The National Assembly may (b) make rules and orders concerning its business, with due regard to representative and participatory democracy, accountability, transparency and public involvement*". This provision, along with several others gave rise to many new trends in South African legislation. In environmental legislation, the idea of public participation (or stakeholder engagement) features strongly and especially the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998, NEMA) and the recent regulations passed under the auspices of this Act makes very strict provisions for public participation in environmental decision-making.

Public participation can be defined as..."*a process leading to a joint effort by stakeholders, technical specialists, the authorities and the proponent who work together to produce better decisions than if they had acted*



*independently*¹. From this definition, it can be seen that the input of the public is regarded as very important indeed.

The PPP is designed to provide sufficient and accessible information to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in an objective manner to assist them to:

- During the EIA Process:
 - Contribute relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment;
 - Verify that their issues have been recorded;
 - Comment on the findings of the environmental assessments; and
 - Provide relevant local information and knowledge to the environmental assessment.

The PPP is a requirement of several pieces of South African Legislation and aims to ensure that all relevant I&APs are consulted, involved and their opinions are taken into account and a record included in the reports submitted to Authorities. The process ensures that all stakeholders are provided this opportunity as part of a transparent process which allows for a robust and comprehensive environmental study. The PPP for the necessary authorisation required for the proposed Mulilo Struisbult PV2 Project needs to be managed sensitively and according to best practises in order to ensure and promote:

- Compliance with international best practice options;
- Compliance with national legislation;
- Establishment and management of relationships with key stakeholder groups; and
- Encouragement of involvement and participation in the environmental study and authorisation/approval process.

As such, the purpose of the PPP and stakeholder engagement process is to:

- Introduce the proposed project and process for the authorisation project;
- Explain the environmental authorisation;
- Determine and record issues, concerns, suggestions, and objections to the project;
- Provide opportunity for input and gathering of local knowledge;
- Establish and formalise lines of communication between the I&APs and the project team;
- Identify all significant issues for the project; and
- Identify possible mitigation measures or environmental management plans to minimise and/or prevent negative environmental impacts and maximise and/or promote positive environmental impacts associated with the project.

This Public Participation Report (PPR) lists all verbal and written issues raised by I&APs and stakeholders from the 30-day initial notification and call to register period from 9 December 2021 to date. A breakdown of the PPP is given within the remaining sections of this PPR.

2.1 LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The PPP must comply with all environmental legislation that requires public participation as part of an application for authorisation or approval in terms of the NEMA.

Adherence to the requirements of the above-mentioned Acts will allow for an Integrated PPP to be conducted, and in so doing, satisfy the requirement for public participation referenced in the Acts. The details of the Integrated PPP are provided below.

¹ Greyling, T. (1999) Towards Managing Environmental Disputes: Appropriate Public Participation. Prepared for Conference on Environmental Dispute Resolution 10-11 June 1998, Fourways, Gauteng, Manyaka Greyling Meiring (Pty) Ltd, South Africa



3 IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

An initial I&AP database has been compiled from historic projects in the area and Windeed searches to obtain the contact details of the surrounding landowners. The I&APs referred to in the PPR include:

- Pre-identified and registered landowners and surrounding landowners;
- Pre-identified and registered key stakeholders;
- Regulatory authorities;
- Specialist interest groups; and
- All I&APs who responded to the initial notifications and requested to be registered.

Efforts to pre-identify key I&APs involved various avenues such as consultation with the proponent and known landowners within the study area, review of related previously conducted studies, and identification of key interest groups and authorities within the vicinity of the study area and municipality. Refer Appendix 5 for the Key Stakeholder/I&AP Database.

All landowners whose properties are within the study area have been notified about the project via post, fax and/or email as well as through advertisements and/or site notices inviting them to participate in the EIA process. Refer to Appendix 2 for the landowner, key stakeholder and I&AP initial notifications.

3.1 LIST OF AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED

The following authorities, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- Siyathemba Local Municipality;
- Pixley ka Seme District Municipality;
- Northern Cape Agriculture, Land Reform And Rural Development;
- Northern Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism;
- Northern Cape Department of Environment and Conservation;
- Northern Cape Department of Roads and Public Works;
- Northern Cape Department of Social Development;
- Northern Cape Department of Water and Sanitation;
- Northern Cape Provincial Heritage Resource Agency;
- Northern Cape Department of Nature and Conservation;
- Northern Cape Department of Mineral Resources and Energy;
- Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC);
- National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy;
- National Department of Transport;
- National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment;
- National Department Of Agriculture, Land Reform And Rural Development;
- National Department of Mineral Resources and Energy;
- National Department of Rural Development and Land Reform;
- National Department of Water and Sanitation; and
- South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)

3.2 LIST OF OTHER KEY I&APS AND STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED AND NOTIFIED

The following key I&APs, but not limited to, were notified of the proposed project and invited to participate in the public participation process:

- Vrugbaar Boerdery Trust;
- Request Trust;



- Prieska Copper Mines Ltd;
- Armscor Defence Institutes;
- Eskom Soc Ltd;
- South African National Roads Agency Ltd: Western Region;
- Conservation South Africa (CSA);
- Birdlife SA;
- Endangered Wildlife Trust;
- WESSA;
- Succulent Society of South Africa (SSSA);
- South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO);
- National Energy Regulator of South Africa;
- Copperton Wind Farm;
- Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd;
- Cape Nature;
- South African Civil Aviation Authority; and
- Local Ward Councillor

4 NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

This section provides details on the notifications that were distributed as part of the consultation process to date.

4.1 INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF LANDOWNERS AND I&APS

The PPP commenced on 9 December 2021 with an initial notification and call to register ending on 28 January 2022. Notification during this initial consultation was given in the manner described below.

4.1.1 REGISTERED LETTERS, FAXES AND EMAILS

Notification letters registered mail in English and Afrikaans were distributed to pre-identified I&APS through either registered mail, faxes, and/or emails. Please refer to Appendix 2 for initial notification and proof of initial notification.

The notification documents included the following information:

- List of anticipated activities to be authorised;
- Sufficient detail of the proposed development to enable I&APs to assess/surmise what impact the development will have on them or on the use of their land;
- The purpose of the proposed project;
- Details of the application processes associated with proposed activities;
- Details of the affected properties (including a locality map);

- #### 4.1.2
- Details of the South African environmental legislation that must be adhered to;
 - Date by which the I&AP must register and send comments through to EIMS;
 - Contact details of the EAP.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements describing the proposed project and EIA process were placed in the Noordwester/Oewernuus Newspaper (in English and Afrikaans) with adequate circulation in the vicinity of the study area on the 14th January 2022. A Northern Cape Provincial Gazette Notice was also published in English and Afrikaans on 24 January 2022. The newspaper adverts and gazette notices included the following information:



- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Nature of the activity;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to Appendix 7 for proof of adverts/ notices placed.

SITE NOTICE PLACEMENT

Six (6) A1 Correx site notices (in English; Afrikaans) were placed at 6 locations along, within and surrounding the perimeter of the proposed project study area on the 09th December 2021. The on-site notices included the following information:

- Project name;
- Applicant name;
- Project location;
- Map of proposed project area;
- Project description;
- Legislative requirements; and
- Relevant EIMS contact person for the project.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for proof of site notice and site notice distribution.

4.2 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The table below provides a summary of the opportunities provided to I&APs for participation in the public participation process to date.

Table 1: Opportunities Provided for Public Participation

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
Initial Public Notification (announcement of project and call to register)	Newspaper advertisements	Noordwester/Oewernuus Newspaper	14 January 2022
	Placement of site notices.	6 A1 site notices (English and Afrikaans) within and around the study area (6 placement locations).	9 December 2021
	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other key I&APs.	Affected landowners and key I&APs were notified via email, fax, and/or post.	9 December 2021



ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION/PLACE	DATE
	Gazette Notice	Northern Cape Provincial Gazette Notice	24 January 2022
Draft Basic Assessment Availability Notification for Public Review and Comment.	Notification of landowners, occupiers, and other registered interested and affected parties.	Affected landowners and registered I&APs were notified via email, fax, and/or post.	17 March 2022

5 NOTIFYING INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES OF THE DECISION

Interested and Affected Parties will be notified via either fax, registered mail and/or email, where contact details are available of the decision once available including the appeal process should they wish to appeal the decision.

6 RECORD OF ISSUES RAISED

The comments presented in are those that have been received and addressed from 9 December 2021 to date and will be updated post the public review period of the BA Report.

6.1.1 HOW ISSUES WERE RAISED

Issues raised were addressed in a transparent manner and included in the compilation of the Basic Assessment Report for the Proposed Mulilo Struisbult PV2 Project in the following manner:

6.1.2 SUMMARY OF ISSUES THAT WERE RAISED

To date comments have been received as per below:

- SAHRA requests for the Heritage Studies to be uploaded on the SAHRIS platform for review and comments.
- Eskom requested a kmz file of the proposed project and provided comments on the application.
- I&AP registrations.

All comments and/or queries received are included in this report and presented in Appendix 3 and Appendix 6 **Error! Reference source not found.** for submission to the competent authority.

7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The comments and issues raised through the public participation have been considered and used inform the compilation of the Basic Assessment report. This report will be updated for submission to the (the competent authority), following the 30-day public review period of the Basic Assessment Report and associated appendices.



Appendix 1: Site Notice Placement and Proof of Placement



Appendix 2: Initial Notification and Proof of Initial Notification

Please note that in an effort to protect the personal information of the Registered I&AP's the contents of this document will not be made publicly available. Should you require access to this document for the purposes of fulfilling your obligations under the NEMA EIA Regulations or other lawful right, please feel free to contact the EIMS Information officer at 011 789 7170 or popia@eims.co.za



Appendix 3: Table of Correspondence



Appendix 4: Initial Notification and Proof of Initial Notification

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Appendix 5: I&AP Database

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Appendix 6: Correspondence Document

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Appendix 7: Advertisement