

# PROPOSED PV1 SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY DU PLESSIS DAM FARM NEAR DE AAR

---

PLANT	DEA REF NO	NEAS REF NO
PV1	14/12/16/3/3/2/456	DEA/EIA/0001773/2013

---

## UPDATE OF FINAL TO REVISED FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

---

*This Update Page describes the process followed since the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Reports were made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for comment during 2013. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the Final EIA Report in response to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) requests, as per the letters dated 21 February 2014 and 15 January 2015.*

### PROCESS SINCE THE LODGING OF THE DRAFT AND FINAL EIA REPORTS

---

The process since the lodging of the Draft EIAR has been as follows:

The Draft EIA Report was made available to the public at the De Aar Public Library (Station Street), the Emthanjeni Municipal buildings (Voortrekker Street) (contact person: Mrs C. Kloppers) and on the Aurecon website ([www.aurecongroup.com](http://www.aurecongroup.com) - change "Current Location" to "South Africa" and follow the Public Participation link) from 19 September 2013 until 29 October 2013.

- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the Draft EIA Report for public comment by means of a letter in English and Afrikaans (see **Annexure B**).
- Authorities were also provided with copies of the report for review.
- Comments received on the Draft EIA Report during this period and have been responded to in a Comments and Response Report (see **Annexure B**).
  
- The Final EIA Report was made available at the same locations as the Draft EIA Report from 20 November 2013 until 10 December 2013 for a 21 day comment period.
- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the Final EIA Report for public comment by means of a letter in English and Afrikaans (see **Annexure B**).
- Authorities were also provided with copies of the report for review.
- Comments received on the Final EIA Report during this period were forwarded to DEA for consideration. These comments are included in **Annexure B** of the Revised Final EIA Report.
  
- On 21 February 2014 a letter was received from the DEA, rejecting the approach to assess all the proposed applications for Farm Du Plessis Dam in one EIA Report. Separate reports were requested for each application.
- Subsequent to DEA's decision, Mulilo identified Du Plessis Dam PV1 as a priority. The project was separated from the main report and submitted to the Department on 1 October 2014. DEA rejected the report for a second time on 15 January 2015 to request additional information, as well as for the report to be subject to public participation.

## UPDATING OF THE FINAL EIA REPORT TO THE REVISED FINAL EIA REPORT

---

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

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

- Grammatical and typographic changes.
- All maps have been updated to be project specific.

Other changes to the report are as follow:

### Section 1:

- Provides information on the process to date since the Final EIA Report was made available for public comment.
- A list of activities from the 2014 EIA Regulations that are additional to the 2010 EIA activities for which environmental authorisation are applied for, has been included.

### Section 2:

- The project approach has been updated to include the third public comment period.

### Section 3:

- Descriptions of infrastructure components that could be shared among the different PVs were included.

### Section 4:

- The cumulative impacts have been updated in some sections of this chapter and additional mitigation measures that address potential future cumulative impacts were included.
- Section 4.16: Provides a collective overview of the cumulative assessments discussed under each of the impact sections.

Annexures have been updated as follows:

- Comments on the Final EIA Report and proof of the PPP have been included in **Annexure B**.
- Correspondence with DEA regarding the split reports and PPP has been included in **Annexure H**.
- The Life-cycle Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) has been updated with additional mitigation measures included in the Revised Final EIAR (**Annexure D**).
- The sensitivity maps in the LEMP have been updated with the new layout for PV1.

## WAY FORWARD

---

These Update Pages have been sent to all registered I&APs on the database. The Revised Final EIA Report has been made available to the public at the same venues as the Draft and Final EIA Reports, as well as on Aurecon's website ([www.aurecongroup.com](http://www.aurecongroup.com) - change "Current Location" to "South Africa" and follow the Public Participation link) from **23 March 2015** to **16 April 2015**.

The Revised Final EIA Report will be submitted to the competent authority, namely the DEA for their consideration and review on 17 April 2015. DEA have 14 days to accept or reject the Revised Final EIA Report after which they will review the report (together with the CRR and all comments submitted on the final and revised reports) over a period of 60 days. The DEA will then either:

- Accept the Final EIAR;
- Notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review;
- Request the EAP to make such amendments to the Report as the competent authority may require; or

- Reject the report if it does not materially comply with the EIA Regulations.

If the report is accepted, the DEA must within 45 days:

- Grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for; or
- Refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

Once DEA issue their decision on the proposed project, all registered I&APs on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the decision within 12 calendar days of the decision having been issued. Should anyone (a member of public, registered I&AP or the Applicant) wish to appeal DEA's decision, a Notice of Intention to Appeal in terms of Chapter 7 of the EIA Regulations (Government Notice No. 543) of NEMA must be lodged with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs within 20 calendar days of the decision being issued. The substantive Appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the Notice.

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