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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/361, 362, 363 & 364

Enquiries: Tebogo Mapinga

Tel: 012 395 1805 Fax: 012 320 7539 E-mail: tmapinga@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd PO Box 148 SUNNINGHILL 2157

Fax: 086 684 0547 Tel: 011 234 6621

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED MERAPI SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY SOUTH-EAST OF EXCELSIOR, MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the final Scoping Report for the above-mentioned project on 18 September 2012.

You are hereby reminded that the activity may not commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely

Mr Mark Gordon

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs Letter signed by: Ms Nyiko Nkosi

Designation; Environmental Officer: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: 02/10/2012



21 January 2013

Department of Water Affairs 185 Schoeman Street Pretoria 0001

Tel: 0123367488

Email: ngobenit@dwa.gov.za

Dear Tocky Ngobeni

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE DEA REF NOs.:

14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (PHASE 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (PHASE 2), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (PHASE 3) AND 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (PHASE 4).

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SolaireDirect Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility and associated infrastructure within a broader area of approximately 1504 hectares. The proposed facility is envisaged to have a generating capacity of 300 MW (to be developed in 4 phases of 75MW each). The proposed facility is located on Portion 0 of Farm 311 Ceylon, Portion 0 of Farm 566 Moedersgift, Portion 0 of Farm 1623 Welgegund, Portion 0 of Farm 374 Concordia, and Portion 1 of Farm 1547 De Hoop located 5 km south-east of Excelsior in the Free State Province. The R709 road bisects the centre of the site. The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Mantsopa Local Municipality.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 – GN R546, a Scoping and EIA Study will be required to be undertaken for the proposed Merapi Solar Park. In order to accommodate the end-requirement that each phase receives an Environmental Authorisation for the respective projects, 4 separate applications have been submitted the National Department of Environmental Affairs. The projects have been registered under Application Reference Numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (Phase 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (Phase 2), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (Phase 3) and 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (Phase 4).

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TEL: +27 (0)11 6S6 3237 • FAX: +27 (0)86 684 0S47 • E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM

SolaireDirect Southern Africa appointed Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts that might arise as a result of the proposed project. The public participation process, which forms part of the overall EIA process, is also being undertaken by Savannah Environmental.

A draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been prepared by Savannah Environmental and is available for public review. The **30-day public review period** for the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is from **21 January 2013 – 20 February 2013**. Please find herewith a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for your review and comment. The report is also available for download from www.savannahSA.com.

Please could you kindly submit your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard? All comments received will be submitted in the Environmental Impact Assessment report which will be submitted to the DEA. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

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All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend a **public meeting** to be held on **30 January 2013** at **16:00** at the **Excelsior Public Library** (39 Kommissie Street, Excelsior).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



23 January 2013

Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development 40 Jan van Riebeeck Street Thaba Nchu 9780

Tel: 051-875-1160

Email: thabita@agric.fs.gov.za

Dear Thabita Mokone

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL



21 January 2013

Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries Delpen Building, Office 270 Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street Pretoria 0084

Tel: 0123197634

Email: thokob@daff.gov.za

Dear Thoko Buthelezi

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Department of Energy 192 Visagie Street Pretoria 0002

Tel: 0124067568

ATTENTION: PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Department of Energy The Strip Building 314 Stateway Road Welkom 9463

Tel: 0573911326 / 1300

ATTENTION: THE DIRECTOR: FREE STATE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Department of Mineral Resources The Strip Building 314 Stateway Welkom 9459

Tel: 057-391-1300

Email: kalipa.kewuti@dmr.gov.za

Dear S Kewuti

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Old Building 184 Jacob Mare Street Pretoria 0001

Tel: 0123129490

Email: dkhan@ruraldevelopment.gov.za

Dear Debbie Khan

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Department of Water Affairs Bloem Plaza Building - 2nd Floor Cnr Maitland and East Burger Streets Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 051-405-9281

Email: ntilit@dwaf.gov.za

Dear TP Ntili

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY

FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

DEA REF NOs.:

14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (PHASE 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (PHASE 2), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (PHASE 3) AND 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (PHASE 4).

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SolaireDirect Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility and associated infrastructure within a broader area of approximately 1504 hectares. The proposed facility is envisaged to have a generating capacity of 300 MW (to be developed in 4 phases of 75MW each). The proposed facility is located on Portion 0 of Farm 311 Ceylon, Portion 0 of Farm 566 Moedersgift, Portion 0 of Farm 1623 Welgegund, Portion 0 of Farm 374 Concordia, and Portion 1 of Farm 1547 De Hoop located 5 km south-east of Excelsior in the Free State Province. The R709 road bisects the centre of the site. The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Mantsopa Local Municipality.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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UNIT 10, BUILDING 2, S WOODLANDS DRIVE OFFICE PARK, CNR. WOODLANDS DRIVE & WESTERN SERVICE ROAD, WOODMEAD, JOHANNESBURG
PO BOX 148, SUNNINGHILL, 2157, GAUTENG

TEL: +27 (0)11 6SG 3237 • FAX: +27 (0)8G 684 0547 • E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM WWW.SAVANNAHSA.COM

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Department of Water Affairs Bloem Plaza Building - 2nd Floor Cnr Maitland and East Burger Streets Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 0514059126

Email: mchunud2@dwa.gov.za

Dear Dumisani Mchunu

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY

FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Department of Water Affairs Bloem Plaza Building - 2nd Floor Cnr Maitland and East Burger Streets Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 051-405-9000

Email: blairv@dwa.gov.za

Dear Vernon Blair

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Eskom 120 Henry Street Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 0514042040

Email: andrea.vangensen@eskom.co.za

Dear Andrea van Gensen

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE DEA REF NOs.:

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Eskom Megawatt Park Maxwell Drive Sunninghill 2157

Tel: 0115167233

Email: john.geeringh@eskom.co.za

Dear John Geeringh

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY

FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Cnr Elizabeth and Aliwal Street Bloemfontein 9300

Tel: 051-861-8509

Email: parural@fs.agric.za

Dear MP Thabethe

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs 34 Markgraaf Street
Bloemfontein
9301

Tel: 051-400-4731

Email: moetit@dteea.fs.gov.za

Dear Mr Ikhraam Osman

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY

FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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VAT REGISTRATION NO.: 4780226736

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs Bojanala Building 34 Markgraaf Street Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 051-400-4913

Email: loetov@dteea.fs.gov.za

Dear Kuni Ditira-Lekoeneba

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE DEA REF NOs.:

14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (PHASE 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (PHASE 2), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (PHASE 3) AND 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (PHASE 4).

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SolaireDirect Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility and associated infrastructure within a broader area of approximately 1504 hectares. The proposed facility is envisaged to have a generating capacity of 300 MW (to be developed in 4 phases of 75MW each). The proposed facility is located on Portion 0 of Farm 311 Ceylon, Portion 0 of Farm 566 Moedersgift, Portion 0 of Farm 1623 Welgegund, Portion 0 of Farm 374 Concordia, and Portion 1 of Farm 1547 De Hoop located 5 km south-east of Excelsior in the Free State Province. The R709 road bisects the centre of the site. The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Mantsopa Local Municipality.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 – GN R546, a Scoping and EIA Study will be required to be undertaken for the proposed Merapi Solar Park. In order to accommodate the end-requirement that each phase receives an Environmental Authorisation for the respective projects, 4 separate applications have been submitted the National Department of Environmental Affairs. The projects have been registered under Application Reference Numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (Phase 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (Phase 3) and 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (Phase 4)

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UNIT 10, BUILDING 2, S WOODLANDS DRIVE OFFICE PARK, CNR. WOODLANDS DRIVE & WESTERN SERVICE ROAD, WOODMEAD, JOHANNESBURG
PO BOX 148, SUNNINGHILL, 2157, GAUTENG

TEL: +27 (0)11 6S6 3237 • FAX: +27 (0)86 684 0S47 • E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM WWW.SAVANNAHSA.COM

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation 45 Maitland Street Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 051-409-8481

Email: booysec@freetrans.gov.za

Dear Ms C Booyse

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Free State Province Spatial Planning Department LT Trust Building - Room 305 Maitland Street, Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 051-407-6816

Email: eddie@fscogta.gov.za

Dear Eddie Scott

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY

FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



21 January 2013

Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Private Bag X20606 Bloemfontein 9300

Tel: 051-410 4750

Email: nelj@sacr.fs.gov.za

Dear Jeaane Nel

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

From the desk of Gabriele Wood E-mail: gabriele@savannahSA.com



21 January 2013

Mantsopa Local Municipality 38 Joubert Street Ladybrand 9745

Tel: 051-924-0654 Fax: 051-924-0020

Dear SM Selepe

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SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

From the desk of Gabriele Wood E-mail: gabriele@savannahSA.com



21 January 2013

Mantsopa Local Municipality 38 Joubert Street Ladybrand 9745

Tel: 051-924-0654 Fax: 051-924-0020

Dear Mapitso Cecilia Sebotsa

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE DEA REF NOs.:

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From the desk of Gabriele Wood E-mail: gabriele@savannahSA.com



21 January 2013

Mantsopa Local Municipality 38 Joubert Street Ladybrand 9745

Tel: 051-924-0654 Fax: 051-924-0020

Dear Tlali Motshoikhu

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UNIT 10, BUILDING 2, S WOODLANDS DRIVE OFFICE PARK, CNR. WOODLANDS DRIVE & WESTERN SERVICE ROAD, WOODMEAD, JOHANNESBURG
PO BOX 148, SUNNINGHILL, 2157, GAUTENG

TEL: +27 (0)11 6S6 3237 • FAX: +27 (0)86 684 0S47 • E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM WWW.SAVANNAHSA.COM

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

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All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend a **public meeting** to be held on **30 January 2013** at **16:00** at the **Excelsior Public Library** (39 Kommissie Street, Excelsior).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

From the desk of Gabriele Wood E-mail: gabriele@savannahSA.com



21 January 2013

South African National Roads Agency Limited 58 Van Eck Place Mkondeni Pietermaritzburg 3212

Tel: 033-392-8120

Email: landmanc@nra.co.za

Dear JC Landman

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY

FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

DEA REF NOs.:

14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (PHASE 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (PHASE 2), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (PHASE 3) AND 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (PHASE 4).

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

From the desk of Gabriele Wood E-mail: gabriele@savannahSA.com



21 January 2013

Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality Old Parliament Building 1 Mampoi Street Witsieshoek 9870

Tel: 058-718-1014

Email: tekastm@lg.fs.gov.za

Dear T Moloi

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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FACILITY, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

Gabriele Wood

From: Gabriele Wood <gabriele@savannahsa.com>

Sent: 18 January 2013 10:08 AM

To: H.L Barkhuizen; TP Ntili; B Mlambo; JC Landman; Department of Energy; S Kewuti;

John Geeringh; Debbie Khan; Mr Ikhraam Osman; Ms C Booyse; Vernon Blair; Thoko Buthelezi; Kuni Ditira-Lekoeneba; Mariagrazia Galimberti; Dumisani

Mchunu

Cc: gabriele@savannahsa.com

Subject: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report -

Proposed Merapi Solar Energy Facility, Excelsior, Free State

Attachments: Merapi SEF Draft EIAR & PM Notification_Organs of State 18.01.2013 - email.pdf

Dear Organ of State

The Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed Merapi Solar Energy Facility near Excelsior in the Free State has reference. This serves as notification that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be available for public review as of Monday 21 February 2013. Please refer to the attached letter for further information.

Kind Regards Gabi Wood

Mrs Gabriele Wood

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Tel: 27 11 656 3237

Fax: 086 684 0547

Email: gabriele@savannahsa.com

www.savannahsa.com

PLZ (041) 581-8520 BFN (051) 001-3800 CPT (021) 555-6777 PRY (012) 548-5056 DUR (031) 569-3767 PTG (015) 285-0060 COURIE WIT. (013) 697-6100 ELS (043) 731-1480 JNB (011) 928-8300 LON (+44) 1753-582-498 Excellence in motion N/O (021) 001-7168 11542453 CO. REG. NO. 1998/010351/07 VAT NO. 4120195526 www.courierit.co.za POD COPY SE 573 NOTE: THE SENDER SHALL REMAIN SHIPPER'S NOTE: P.O. BOX ADDRESSES ACCOUNT NO. 11860 REFERENCE LIABLE FOR PAYMENT NOT ACCEPTED TO BE BILLED To: (Receiver) Cibrary From: (Sender) SAUANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (FTY) LTD excelsion **Eireet Address** Street Address UNITIO, BLOCK 2, 5 WOODLANDS Suburb CNR. WOODLANDS BRAWESTERN SERVICE WOODMEAD City/Town City/Town Excelsion Contact Contall 3 A W11 656 3237 Ms won Culc E-mail SHOULD NO SERVICE BE SELECTED, COURIERIT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MARK THE SERVICE OVERNIGHT COURIER OR INTERNATIONAL COURIER HON EXPRESS DELIVERY (24 - 46 HAS) SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS DITERMATIONAL COURSES (DOCK) BATURDAY MURIL IC MOLITARY METER HOURIS X OVERNOR COMPTENTS TOTAL PIECES TOTAL MASS GRAD COURIER SERVICES APPLY TO MAJOR CENTRES ONLY EXPRESS PACK SECURITY NUMBER ON LIP OF FLYER DIMENSIONS (CM) Doc COLLECTED BY COUNTRY NO. INSURANCE: (PLEASE /) 30 60 REQUIRED PROOF OF DELIVERY CEDIBONE Mases CHANGES MISS WILL MIPLY IF THIS HOSLIFANCE SECTION IS PARTIALLY OR HOY COMPLETED COMPLETED BY DIMENSIONS GENERATED BY SWAD MACHINE SUPERSEDE MANUAL DIMENSIONS TIME PLEASE NOTE: TERMS ARE STRICTLY 30 DAYS. I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE STANDARD CONDITIONS OF CARRIAGE WHICH APPEAR ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT

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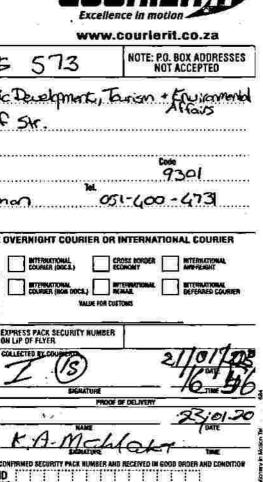
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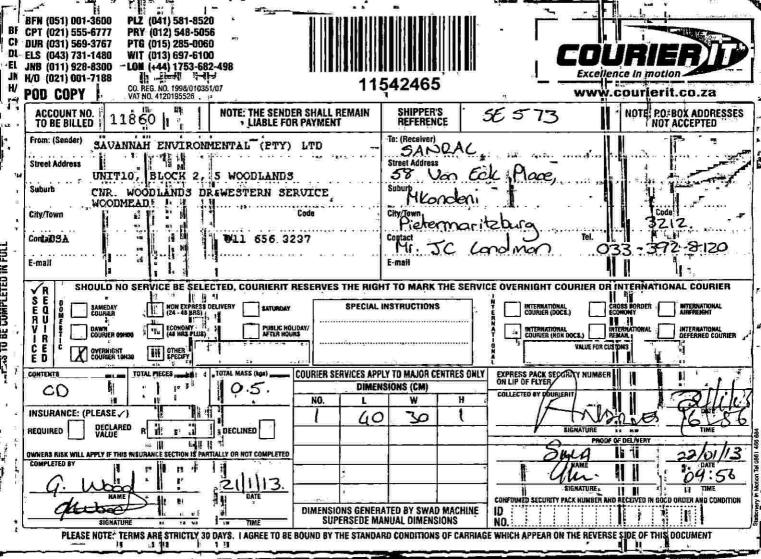
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MAMPOI STREET, OLD PARLIAMENT BUILDING, PRIVATE BAG X810, WITSIESHOEK 9870, SOUTH AFRICA

★: +27 (58)-718 1036 ②: +27 (58)718 1034 tekas.tm@lg.fs.gov.za/ loraine.tm@lg.fs.gov.za

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER

03 October 2012

Savannah Environmental (PTY) LTD P.O. Box 148 Sunninghill 2157

Dear Mrs. Gabriele Wood

RE: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI (EXCELSIOR) PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR PARK, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Your letter regarding the above mentioned matter bears reference:

The Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality hereby acknowledges a receipt of your communiqué on the subject matter. While appreciating the need and desirability of the proposed development and local community benefits thereof, you are encouraged to follow due EIA processes to ensure that environment and community health is not compromised.

The Municipality further recommends/advices that it should be informed about the progress of this project in its tenure either through meetings and/or written reports

It is in light of the above sentiments that the Municipality registers as an Interested and Affected party for the proposed activity.

Ady, T. Moloi

Acting Municipal Manager



Ref. 14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (Phase 1) 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (Phase 2) 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (Phase 3) 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (Phase 4)

Enquiries: N. Mahase

Savannah Environmental (PTY) LTD

Fax no: 086 684 0547 Attention: S. Muniongo

RE: PROPOSED MERAPI SOLAR PHOTOVALTAIC (PV) PLANT SPLIT INTO 4 DEVELOPMENT PHASES ON A SITE NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE.

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA) has reviewed the Draft Scoping Report for the above mentioned project. Resulting from the review of the abovementioned report the Department (DETEA) is satisfied with the description of environmental impacts and management measures developed to mitigate the negative impacts.

The Department is therefore in support of the project and recommends the following:

- The decommissioning plan must be drafted highlighting where and how the material used will be disposed of and how the disturbed land will be rehabilitated.
- The Environmental Management Committee of DETEA also requests clarity on whether the Department of Agriculture was contacted with regard to the land use. This is because the proposed development is on agricultural land. The Department would like to know if there is any statistics on the amount of land that will be available in future for agricultural purposes.

Regards,

Ms. L. Wan Rensburg

Acting DDG: Environmental Affairs

Date: Ithorhober 2013

24 Bojanala Building Markgraaf Street Bloemfontein 9300

OFFICE OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT Private Bag X 20801 **Alcomiontein**

Tel +27 (0)51 400 4812 Fax +27 (0)51 400 4842 e-mail: mkhosena@detes:(s.cov.28



13 February 2013 DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs:

Free State
Private Bag X20801
Bloemfontein
9300

Tel: 051-400-9410

Email: <u>vrensbl@detea.fs.gov.za</u>

Dear Ms L van Rensburg

RE: PROPOSED MERAPI SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE

This letter serves as acknowledgment of receipt of a letter received from the DETEA dated 11 October 2012. In response to the recommendations raised regarding the proposed Merapi Solar Energy Facility near Excelsior [DEA Reference Numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (PHASE 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (PHASE 2), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (PHASE 3) AND 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (PHASE 4)]. the following has reference:

1. Decommissioning Plan

A decommissioning plan is outlined in Chapter 9 of the Environmental Management Programme (EMP), attached as Appendix K (Phase 1), Appendix L (Phase 2), Appendix M (Phase 3) and Appendix N (Phase 4) of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The decommissioning plan highlights where and how the material used will be disposed of. It further outlines the activities that would need to be undertaken in order to rehabilitate the disturbed land.

2. Consultation with the Department of Agriculture

As part of the public participation component of the EIA process, a focus group meeting was held with the Department of Agriculture in Botshabelo on 31 January 2013. We still await formal comment from the Department of Agriculture.

UNIT 10, BUILDING 2, S WOODLANDS DRIVE OFFICE PARK, CNR. WOODLANDS DRIVE & WESTERN SERVICE ROAD, WOODMEAD, JOHANNESBURG
PO BOX 148, SUNNINGHILL, 21S7, GAUTENG
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A soil and agricultural survey of the site was undertaken as part of the EIA. It was concluded that the proposed Merapi PV facility site will be located on generally LOW potential agricultural land. In addition, the layout of proposed PV facility has been strategically planned to mitigate loss of potential agricultural land.

From an agricultural perspective, this development will not impact on the agricultural potential of the site. Areas currently used for agricultural purposes will remain available for this land use.

Should you have any additional queries or comments please contact the undersigned.

Kind Regards,

MS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD

(not signed, sent via email)



Private Bag X120, Pretoria (Tshwane), 0001 Delpen Building, c/o Annie Botha & Union Street, Riviera, 0084

From: Directorate Land Use and Soil Management Tel: 012-319-76341 Fax: 012-329-5938 e-mail: Enquiries: Help Desk Ref: 2012_07_0077

SAVANNAH ENVIROMENTAL P.O. Box 148 SUNNINGHILL 2157

7013 -01- 2 9

Dear Sirs

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MERAPI (EXCELSIOR) PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR PARK, NEAR EXCELSIOR FREE STATE PROVINCE.

Your letter dated 14 AUGUST 2012 refers.

With reference to the above-mentioned matter this Department does not support the proposed solar park. The proposed development will have negative impact on the current and the surrounding activities. The proposed development is also not compatible with the activities in the area.

Please note that this comment does not exempt any person from any provision of any other law, and does not purport to interfere with the rights of any person who may have an interest in the agricultural land.

Yours faithfully

MC MARUBINI
DELEGATE OF THE MINISTER: LAND USE AND SOIL MANAGEMENT



Private Bag X120, Pretoria (Tshwane), 0001 Delpen Building, C/o Annie Botha & Union Street, Riviera, 0084

> From: Directorate Land Use and Soil Management Tel: 012-319-7634 Fax: 012-329-5938 Enquiries: Helpdesk Ref: 2012_07_0075

Messrs PO Box 148 SUNNINGHILL 2157

2012 -10- 1 6

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE SUBDIVISION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND ACT, 1970 OF 70: SANNASPOS SOLAR ENERGY ON THE FARM BESEMKOP NO 1808 AND THE FARM LEJWE NO 2962; DISTRICT BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Your letter dated 28 June 2012 refers.

With reference to the above-mentioned matter this Department wishes to inform you that, your solar energy project was received and the matter can only be assessed on receipt of the outstanding information.

- 1 EIA Motivational report;
- 2 Soil survey; and
- 3 Formal application.

Yours Faithfully

Ms. M.C. Marubini

Ms MC MARUBINI

DELEGATE OF THE MINISTER: LAND USE AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

Online application available at: http://www.agis.agric.za/agriland

From the desk of Gabriele Wood E-mail: gabriele@savannahSA.com



27 February 2013 Your Ref: 2012_07_0077

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Private Bag X120 Pretoria 0001

Tel: 012-319-7619 Fax: 012-329-5938

Dear MC Marubini

PROPOSED ESTABLISHEMENT OF THE MERAPI (EXCELSIOR) PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR PARK, NEAR EXCELSIOR, FREE STATE PROVINCE

DEA REF NOS.: PHASE 1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/361; PHASE 2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/362; PHASE 3: 14/12/16/3/3/2/363; AND PHASE 4: 14/12/16/3/3/2/364

Your letter dated 29 January 2013 refers. This serves as acknowledgement of and response to the comments raised by the Department.

A soils and agricultural survey of the site was undertaken as part of the EIA. It was concluded that the proposed Merapi PV facility site will be located on generally LOW potential agricultural land. In addition, the layout of the proposed PV facility has been strategically planned to minimise loss of potential agricultural land.

From an agricultural perspective, this development will not impact on the agricultural potential of the site. Areas currently used for agricultural purposes will remain available for this land use.

Please could you kindly indicate whether the Department requires a site visit so that further explanation can be given in this regard.

I trust the above is in order.

Kind Regards

MS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

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