

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Fedsure Building · 315 Pretorius Street · PRETORIA Tel (+ 27 12) 310 3911 · Fax (+ 2712) 322 2682

NEAS Reference: DEA/ EIA/0001284/2012 DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360 Enquiries: Sindiswa Dlomo

Telephone: 012-395-1856 Fax: 012-320-7539 E-mail: Sdlomo@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Ann Thomas
SolaireDirect Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
Address
CAPE TOWN
2157

Fax No: 086-684-0547

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION: PROPOSED SANNASPOS PV PLANT PHASE 1 (75MW) ON A SITE NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Final Scoping Report (FSR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated September 2012 and received by the Department on 18 September 2012 refers.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated September 2012 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. The FSR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of regulation 30(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR). This includes but is not limited to the:

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, South African Civil Aviation Authority, Department of Water Affairs, South African Heritage Resource Agency, Department of Police, Roads and Transport Free State, South African National Roads Agency SOC Limited.

Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the Final EIR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the site layout plan to illustrate the solar panel position and associated infrastructure. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are relatable to one another;
- Cardinal points;
- Co-ordinates;
- · Legible legends:
- Indicate alternatives:
- · Wetland and buffer zone:
- Latest land cover:
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

You are required to submit the final site layout plan together with the Final EIR to the Department. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout Positions of solar facilities:

- Foundation footprint:
- Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
- Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
- The location of Heritage sites;
- Sub-station(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
- Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
- All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
- Buildings including accommodation;
- All "no-go" areas; and
- A map combining the final layout plan must be superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation must include the following:

- All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIR.
- The final site layout plan.
- Measures as dictated by the final site lay-out plan and micro-siting.
- An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas (especially the wetlands) and features identified during the EIA process.
- A map combining the final layout plan superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map

 f. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the many combining the final layout plan superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- f. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site in consultation with the ECO and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.

- g. An open space management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- h. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility including timeframes for restoration which must indicate rehabilitation within the shortest possible time after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
- j. A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- k. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- A transportation plan for the transport of PV components, main assembly cranes and other large pieces of equipment.
- n. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would results from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- o. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.
- Please ensure that all the relevant Listing notice activities are applied for, that the Listing notice activities that are applied for are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of regulation 67 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and regulations 56 and 57 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in regulation 56(3a-3h).

Please ensure that the Final EIR includes at least one A3 regional map of the area and the locality maps included in the final EIR illustrate the PV positions, its associated infrastructure, different proposed alignments and the above ground storage of fuel. The maps must be of acceptable quality and as a minimum, have the following attributes:

- Maps are to relate to each other;
- Cardinal points:

- Co-ordinates:
- Legible legends;
- Indicate alternatives;
- Wetland and buffer zone;
- Latest land cover;
- Vegetation types of the study area; and
- A3 size locality map.

Further, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD) and two (2) hard copies of both the Draft and Final EIR to the Department as per regulation 34(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2010.

Please also find attached information that must be used in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report. This will enable the Department to speedily review the EIAR and make a decision on the application.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may 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 Fatima Rawjee

Designation; Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: 06/11/2012_

CC:		SolaireDirect Southern Africa	Tel: 021-685-9377	Fax: 021-685-9591
	Mr C. Geldenhuys	Free State: EDT&EA	Tel: 051-400-9410	Fax: 086-732-7314
	Mr. S. Msibi	Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality	Tel: 051-405-8621	·Fax: 051-405-8101

EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES

General site information

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- · Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- Solar plant design specifications including:
 - Type of technology
 - Structure height
 - Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)
 - Structure orientation
 - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
 - Generation capacity
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
 - Current use of land on the site including:
 - Buildings and other structures
 - Agricultural fields
 - Grazing areas
 - Natural vegetation areas (natural veid not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
 - Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
 - Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
 - Cultural historical sites and elements
- Rivers, streams and water courses
- Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
- Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
- High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
 - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land

- 1km from residential areas
- > Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
- Less than 8% slope
- between 8% and 12% slope
- between 12%and 14% slope
- steeper than 18 % slope
- A map/layer that indicate locations of birds and bats including roosting and foraging areas (specialist input required)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
 - Positions of solar facilities
 - Foundation footprint
 - Permanent laydown area footprint
 - Construction period laydown footprint
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible)
 - River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
 - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)
 - Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM)
 - Cut and fill areas along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill
 - Borrow pits
- Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)
- Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of applications.

3. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:
 - roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
 - Railway lines and stations
 - Industrial areas
 - Harbours and airports
 - Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
 - Pipelines
- Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases
- A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
- Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas

- Agricultural fields
- Irrigated areas
- An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams

Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Any application, documentation, notification etc. should be forwarded to the following officials:

Ms Mashudu Marubini Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970) E-mail: MashuduMa@daff.gov.za Tel 012-319 7619

Ms Thoko Buthelezi AgriLand Liaison office E-mail: ThokoB@daff.gov.za Tel 012-319 7634

All hardcopy applications / documentation should be forwarded to the following address:

Physical address:

Delpen Building Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street Office 270

Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

Postal Address:

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Private Bag X120 Pretoria 0001 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom regarding grid connectivity and capacity. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mr John Geeringh Eskom Transmission Megawatt Park D1Y38 PO Box 1091 **JOHANNESBURG** 2000

Tel: 011 516 7233 Fax: 086 661 4064 John.geeringh@eskom.co.za

B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following:
 - Identification of the soil forms present on site
 - The size of the area where a particular soil form is found
 - GPS readings of soil survey points
 - The depth of the soil at each survey point
 - Soil colour
 - Limiting factors
 - Clay content
 - Slope of the site
 - A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area,
 - Size of the site
- Exact locality of the site
- · Current activities on the site, developments, buildings
- Surrounding developments / land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site
- · Access routes and the condition thereof
- Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment)
- Possible land use options for the site
- Water availability, source and quality (if available)
- Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice
- Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area

A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the maps



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> DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360 Enquiries: Sindiswa Dlomo

Tel: 012 395 1856 Fax: 012 320 7539 E-mail: SDlomo@environment.gov.za

Ms Sheila Muniongo Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd PO Box 148 SUNNINGHILL 2157

Fax: 086 684 0547

PER FACSIMILE / MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED SANNASPOS-PHASE 1 SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY EAST OF BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Department confirms having received the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the above-mentioned project on 17 January 2013.

Please note that the Department will start reviewing once the final Environmental Impact Assessment Report is received.

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 Pumeza Skepe

Designation: Assistant Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Date: Saloutzoi3



15 January 2013

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

Tel: 0123197619

Email: mashuduma@daff.gov.za

Dear Mashudu Marubani

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SolaireDirect Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a 75MW photovoltaic (PV) solar facility and associated infrastructure within a broader area of approximately 600 hectares. The facility is proposed on Portion 0 of Farm Besemkop 1808, Portion 0 of Farm Lejwe 2962 located 45km east of Bloemfontein in the Free State Province. The N8 road runs north of the site. The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) No 107 of 1998, as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of GN R543 – GN R546, a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment study will be required to be undertaken for the proposed Sannaspos Solar Energy Facility project. The project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) under Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360.

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 **15 January 2013 – 15 February 2013**. Please find herewith a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for your perusal. The report can also be viewed on our website 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.

In terms of the NEMA Amendment Act a **40-day review period** will be allowed for **commenting authorities / organs of state** to submit their comments on the draft Scoping Report to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Please could you kindly provide the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project. By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the EIA process.

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend a public meeting to be held on **Thursday 31 January 2013 at 14:00** at the **Small Church, Section F, Botshabelo West**.

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



15 January 2013

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

Tel: 0123197634

Email: thokob@daff.gov.za

Dear Thoko Buthelezi

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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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



15 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 PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) No 107 of 1998, as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of GN R543 – GN R546, a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment study will be required to be undertaken for the proposed Sannaspos Solar Energy Facility project. The project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) under Application Reference Number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360.

UNIT 10, BUILDING 2, S WOODLANDS DRIVE OFFICE PARK, CNR. WOODLANDS DRIVE Y WESTERN SERVICE ROAD, WOODMEAD, JOHANNESBURG
PO BOX 148, SUNNINGHILL, 21S7, GAVTENG
TEL: +27 (0)11 6S6 3237 • FAX: +27 (0)86 684 0S47 • E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM

WWW.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 **15 January 2013 – 15 February 2013**. Please find herewith a copy of the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report for your perusal. The report can also be viewed on our website 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.

In terms of the NEMA Amendment Act a **40-day review period** will be allowed for **commenting authorities / organs of state** to submit their comments on the draft Scoping Report to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Please could you kindly provide the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project. By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the EIA process.

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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



15 January 2013

Department of Energy 192 Visagie Street Pretoria 0002

Tel: 0124067568

ATTENTION: DDG: PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR
ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE

(DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 January 2013

Department of Mineral Resources 314 The Strip Building cnr Stateway and Bok Street, Welkom 9459

Tel: 057-391-1300

Email: kalipa.kewuti@dmr.gov.za

Dear S Kewuti

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 January 2013

Department of Water Affairs Bloem Plaza Building c/o Maitland & East Burger Streets Bloemfontein 9300

Email: jansevann@dwa.gov.za

Dear G Janse van Noordwyk

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 January 2013

Department of Water Affairs
Bloem Plaza Building
c/o Maitland & East Burger StreetsBloemfontein
9301

Tel: 015-405-9000

Email: motheog@dwa.gov.za

Dear George Motheo

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 January 2013

Department of Water Affairs Bloem Plaza Building c/o Maitland & 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 SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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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, 21S7, 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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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 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 SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 January 2013

Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Bojanala Building 34 Markgraaf Street Bloemfontein 9301

Tel: 051-400-4929

Email: kasumbap@dteea.fs.gov.za

Dear Thabang Selemela

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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15 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 SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT



15 January 2013

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

Tel: 051-404-9600

Email: mkhosene@detea.fs.gov.za

Dear L van Rensburg

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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15 January 2013

Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Bonjanala Building
34 Markgraaf Street
Bloemfontein
9300

Tel: 051-400-4818

Dear N Mahase

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

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



15 January 2013

Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Bonjanala Building
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 SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SolaireDirect Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd is proposing the establishment of a 75MW photovoltaic (PV) solar facility and associated infrastructure within a broader area of approximately 600 hectares. The facility is proposed on Portion 0 of Farm Besemkop 1808, Portion 0 of Farm Lejwe 2962 located 45km east of Bloemfontein in the Free State Province. The N8 road runs north of the site. The study area falls within the jurisdiction of the Mangaung Metropolitan 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
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TEL: +27 (0)11 6S6 3237 • FAX: +27 (0)86 684 0S47 • E-MAIL: INFO@SAVANNAHSA.COM

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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



15 January 2013

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

Tel: 051-409-8481

Email: booysec@freetrans.gov.za

Dear Ms C Booyse

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

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



15 January 2013

Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality Room 1017, 10th Floor, Bram Fischer Building Cnr Nelson Mandela and Markgraaff Street Bloemfontein 9300

Tel: 051-405-8577

Email: mpolokeng.kolobe@mangaung.co.za

Dear Mpolokeng Kolobe

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

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



15 January 2013

SANRAL – Eastern Region 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 SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

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MRS GABRIELE WOOD

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

Gabriele Wood

From: Gabriele Wood <qabriele@savannahsa.com>

Sent: 15 January 2013 04:53 PM

To: H.L Barkhuizen; G Janse van Noordwyk; TP Ntili; B Mlambo; JC Landman;

Hanneline Smit; Paul Daphne; TDJ Matutle; Department of Energy; S Kewuti; Makgupe Abram Masiu; John Geeringh; L van Rensburg; Peter Novellie; Debbie Khan; Mpolokeng Kolobe; Ms Thabita Mokone; Mr Ikhraam Osman; Eric Tyu; Ms C Booyse; Mr Sandile Joseph Msibi; Chris Isherwood; Thabang Selemela; George

Motheo; Thoko Buthelezi

Cc: gabriele@savannahsa.com

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

Sannaspos Solar Energy Facility (DEA Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360)

Attachments: Sannaspos SEF Draft EIAR & PM Notification 15.01.2013_Email.pdf

Dear Stakeholders

The proposed Sannaspos Solar Energy Facility Project (DEA Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360) has reference. This serves as notification that the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report is available for review. Please refer to the attached letter for further details.

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

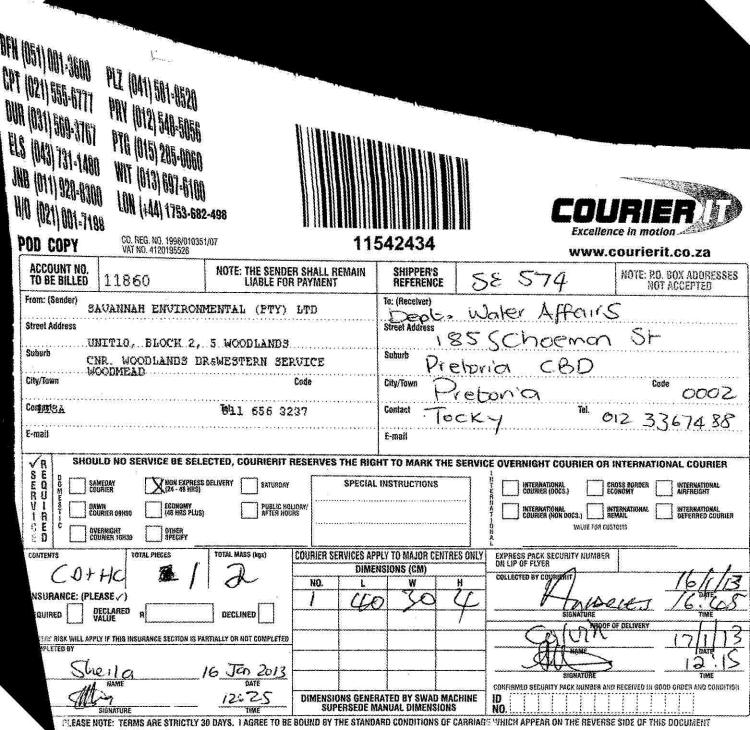
Email: gabriele@savannahsa.com

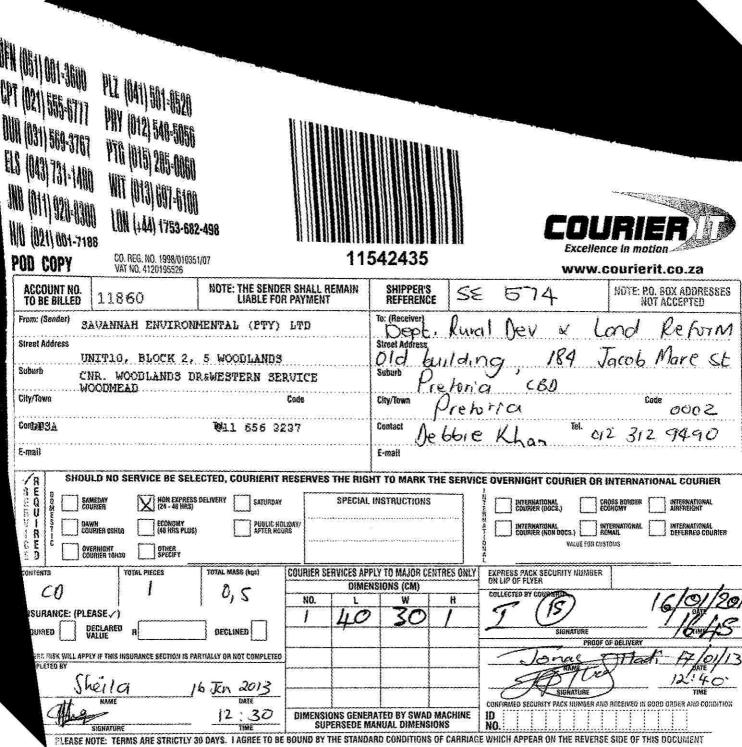
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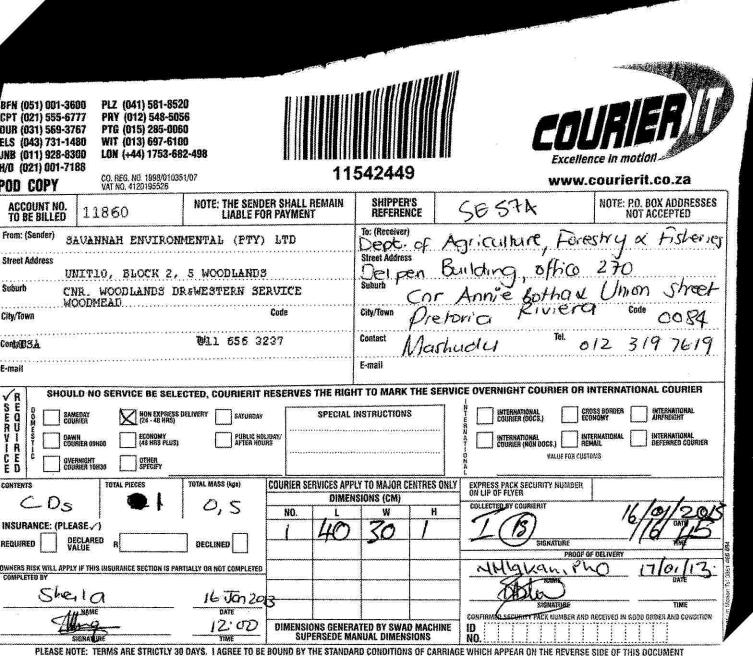
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Enquiries: G. Janse van Noordwyk

Ref no: 16/2/7/C522/D1

Attention: Ms. Gabriele Wood

Savanna Environmental (Pty) Ltd PO Box 148

SUNNINGHILL

2157

Dear Madam

PROPOSED SANNASPOS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY NEAR **BLOEMFONTEIN (PHASE 1)**

Your report dated 20 August 2012 with DEA Reference No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/360 regarding the above refers:-

- 1. The Department of Water Affairs has taken note that there might be wetlands and there is a water resource (Modder River) next to the proposed development and as such your attention is drawn to the first two bullets on our previous correspondence dated 07 August 2012 which states that:-
 - Any development within 1:100 year flood line or within the riparian habitat constitutes a water use licence in terms of section 21 (c) and (i) of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) and will require authorisation before any development may commence.
 - Please note that any development within 500m from the boundary of any wetland requires a water use licence according to this Department's regulations.
- 2. To enable this Department to make concrete decisions, you are therefore requested to undertake Freshwater Studies that will delineate wetlands and to also show a layout plan indicating the 1:100 year floodline.
- 3. Your report also indicates that the proposed facility will also have offices, the details of the source of water supply and sanitation method to be used must be specified.
- 4. River crossings through pipelines and/roads must be minimised as far as possible and where this cannot be avoided, this activity will need to be authorised with this Department.

Please feel free to contact this office with any queries regarding the above.

Yours Sincerely

Provincial Head: Free State Letter Signed by Miss B.N. Bele

Deputy Director: Drinking Water and Wastewater Management

P. O. Box 528 BLOEMFONTEIN 9300 Bloem Plaza Building C/o Maitland & East Burger Streets BLOEMFONTEIN

E-mail jansevann@dwa.gov.za

DEPT. OF WATER AFFAIL

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PAGE

Ref. 14/12/16/3/3/2/350 Enquiries: N. Mahase Tel: 05/14004818

Savannah Environmental (PTY) LTD

Attention: S. Muniongo Fax no: 086 684 0547

RE: PROPOSED SANNASPOS SOLAR PHOTOVALTAIC (PV) ON A SITE NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE.

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

The decommissioning plan must be drafted highlighting where and how the material used The Department is therefore in support of the project and recommends the following:

- will be disposed of and how the disturbed land will be rehabilitated.
- 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 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 purposes

Regards,

36)

Acting DDG: Environmental Affairs en Rensburg

Clober 2013 Date: OFFICE OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL 24 Bojanala Bullding Private Bag X 20801 Tel +27 Marignast Street Bloemfontein Fax +27 Bloemfontein 9300

8 fs. 00V ZB



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

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 The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA) has environmental impacts and management measures developed to mitigate the negative impacts.

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Regards,

Asting DDG: Environmental Affairs
Date: ITM-October 2000

OFFICE OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY MAN 24 Bejansis Building Private Bag X 20801 Tel +27 (0)51 400 481. Markgraaf Street Bloemfontein Fax +27 (0)51 400 484 Bjoemfontein 9300

www.deteafs.cnV



Our Ref: EIA/10/2012

Your Ref: DEA: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360

Enquiries: M. Kolobe

Date: 26 October 2012

Savannah Environmental P. O. Box 148 Sunninghill 2157

Email: info@savannahsa.co.za

DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED SANNASPOS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BLOEMFONTEIN.

- 1. reference is made to your draft basic assessment report (BAR) received by this office on the 07 September 2012 regarding the above mentioned application.
- 2. This office has reviewed the draft BAR. This review brought to light issues that need attention by you so that an informed decision regarding the above mentioned application can be made and to ensure that the impacts are assessed in terms of various criteria such as extend, duration, intensity and to recommend mitigation actions. Therefore the following studies must be conducted:
 - a. Avifaunal study to determine the impacts that the proposed power line will have on the sensitive red data bird species and other bird species occurring in the area.
 - b. flood line study to determine that no development within a 1:100 year flood line as per the requirement of the National Water Act No 36 of 1998.
- 3. In light of the above all documents illustrating compliance to the conditions should be forwarded to this office.

Should more information be required, please contact this office.

Kind Regards

Mr. Erie Tyu

Acting: General Manager

Planning

CC: vphukabye@environmnental.gov.za

PO Box 3704, Bloemfontein 9300 Room 1017, 10th floor, Bram Fischer Building, Cnr Nelson Mandela & Markgraaff Street Tel: +27 51 405 8577: +27 51 405 8882 E-Mail: Mpolokeng.kolobe@mangaung.co.za, Website: www.manguang.co.za

Our Ref: 9/2/302/0002

Enquiries: Andrew Salomon

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: asalomon@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 670



Page No: 1



Final Comment

In terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Solaire Direct

Tomose, N. July 2012. A Phase 1 Heritage Impact Study for the Proposed Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facilities (In Sannaspos), near Bloemfontein, Free State Province.

Kibii, J. July 2012. Palaeontological Impact Assessment: Desktop Study. Proposed Sannaspos Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facilities on Portion 0 of the Farm 1808 Besemkop and Portion 0 of the Farm 2962 Lejwe of Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, Free State Province.

The proposed development entails a Photovoltaic Solar Power plant generating approximately 75KV, on a site located 45km east of Bloemfontein on the Farms Lejwe 2962 and Besemkop 1808. The development will include PV Panels, cabling, access roads, power lines, a workshop area and a 132KV substation, and is estimated to cover approximately 150 hectares.

The Heritage Impact Assessment revealed the following heritage resources:

Site Sannas-1: An informal cemetery of approximately 13 graves, oriented east to west, with stone dressing. The author recommends that a Site Management Plan be developed for this site that will include the site being fenced with an access gate.

Site Sannas-2: Two Middle Stone Age stone scatters in an exposed calcrete layer at the foot of a hill in secondary context. The author recommends that no mitigation is required for this site due to its low significance.

Site Sannas-3: An historic stone shed. The author recommends documentation of this feature and then application for a permit for its destruction.

Site Sannas-4: Graffiti. Approximately 41 years old. Not of heritage significance and the author recommends that no mitigation is required for this site.

Site Sannas-5: A formal cemetery of approximately 8 graves, oriented east to west, with granite dressing and headstones. The author recommends that a Site Management Plan be developed for this site that will include the site being fenced.

The Palaeontological Impact Assessment states that the greater region where the proposed development will be located is known to be rich in vertebrate, invertebrate and plant fossils from the Permian and Triassic epochs and that there is a likelihood that the development could disturb fossil heritage. The author recommends that a qualified palaeontologist be commissioned to undertake ground reconnaissance before groundbreaking and that construction managers report any fossil finds encountered during construction.



Our Ref: 9/2/302/0002

Enquiries: Andrew Salomon

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: asalomon@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 670

Date: Friday November 16, 2012

Page No: 2



In terms of the archaeological resources, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit supports the recommendations of the specialist for Sites Sannas-1, Sannas-2, sannas-4 and Sannas-5. For the two cemetery sites, the graves should be restored where these are dilapidated, protected and conserved in perpetuity. For this purpose, a proper fence must be build around them including entry gates to allow visits from relatives and family friends. The fence must be placed 2 meters away from the perimeter of the graves. No development is allowed within 15 meters from the fence line surrounding the graves. Alternatively, The SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves Unit requires that if the area where the burials are located fall within the development footprint, then provisions stipulated in section 36 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act No. 25 of 1999) are applicable, and relocation of these might proceed provided that a public consultation process is followed.

In terms of the palaeontological resources, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit supports the recommendations of the specialist and additionally requires that the construction managers be trained by a qualified palaeontologist prior to any development, to identify fossil resources that may be exposed during the development. The results of the field survey must be submitted to SAHRA APM Unit for commenting.

If the recommendations made in the specialist report and in this comment are adhered to, the SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit has no objection to the development (in terms of the archaeological and palaeontological component of the heritage resources). If any new evidence of archaeological sites or artefacts, palaeontological fossils, graves or other heritage resources are found during development, construction or mining, SAHRA and a professional archaeologist must be alerted immediately.

Where the development involves disturbance of an archaeological or palaeontological site of some significance and Phase 2 mitigation has been asked for, SAHRA will require that, in terms of s.38(4)(b&c) of the National Heritage Resources Act, the provisions of section 35 apply. The specialist will require a mitigation permit from the relevant Heritage Resources Authority. On receipt of a satisfactory mitigation (Phase 2) permit report from the archaeologist, the heritage authority will make further recommendations in terms of the site. Very often permission is given for the destruction of the remainder of the archaeological or palaeontological sites. Very rarely, if a site has high heritage significance the authority may request that it be conserved, that mini-site management plans, interpretive material and possibly protective infrastructure be established.

For Site Sannas-3, please note that decisions on Built Environment must be referred to the Gauteng Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (Ms Maphata Ramphele: Maphata.Ramphele@gauteng.gov.za, Mr Grant Botha: grantb@gpg.gov.za), to whom this comment will be copied.



Our Ref: 9/2/302/0002

Enquiries: Andrew Salomon

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: asalomon@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 670

Date: Friday November 16, 2012

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Our Ref: 9/2/302/0002

Enquiries: Andrew Salomon

Tel: 021 462 4502

Email: asalomon@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 670

Date: Friday November 16, 2012

Page No: 4



Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Salomon

Heritage Officer: Archaeology

South African Heritage Resources Agency

Colette Scheermeyer

SAHRA Head Archaeologist

South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Terms & Conditions:

- 1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
- 2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
- 3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

