

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND INTEGRATED WATER USE LICENCE

PROPOSED LEPHALALE SOLAR PROJECT WITHIN THE LEPHALALE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, WATERBERG DISTRICT, LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide all Interested and Affected parties (I&APs) with information about the proposed project and to introduce and explain the Water Use License Application (WULA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. This Background Information Document (BID) also aims to explain the public participation process that is prescribed by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and invites all I&AP's to comment on issues and concerns related to the project.

Introduction and Project Background

K2021699383 (South Africa) (Pty) LTD (the Client) a wholly owned subsidiary of Cennergi Holdings Proprietary Limited proposes the development of a solar plant that will generate electricity using photovoltaic (PV) panels. The electricity produced will supplement power at the Grootegeluk coal mine in Lephalale, Limpopo province. The solar plant will be approximately 256 hectares (ha) in area and will generate approximately 100MW of power. The farm Appelvlakte 448 has been selected as the optimal location for the solar plant. (Refer to Figure 1)

GCS Water and Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd (GCS) has been appointed to undertake the environmental authorisation (EA) and water use license application (WULA) processes and associated Public Participation Processes (PPP) required for the proposed project in order for

compliance to the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998, as amended), the National Water Act (NWA) (Act 36 of 1998, as amended), and/or Supporting Environmental Management Acts (SEMA's). This background information document (BID) provides the background details for the proposed development, associated exercises undertaken in order to comply with the required authorisation process, and acts as a baseline document for all interested and affected parties (I&APs).

Project Description

The proposed Photovoltaic (PV) solar plant will make provision for the establishment of an array of crystalline solar photovoltaic (PV) modules grouped into strings of 28 modules and installed to solar tracking mounting structures, together with associated infrastructure for the generation of 80MWac of electricity. The PV tables will form an array covering an area of approximately 236ha, surrounded by a perimeter access road and fence. Provision will be made for 4km long evacuation powerlines that will follow a 67m wider corridor along the southern boundary of the fence line of the Appelvlakte Farm No. 448. This corridor will have a surface area of approximately 25ha and will contain the main access road to the facility. The combined land requirement for the project therefore is approximately 256ha.

The PV tables will be raised approximately 1.5m above natural ground level and will make provision for a single axis tracking system allowing maximization of solar energy harvesting for conversion to electrical energy.

The proposed associated infrastructure includes a fenced construction staging/lay-down area (a portion of which will form the operational lay-down area), inverter-transformer stations on concrete pads, a battery energy storage system (BESS) adjacent to the substation platform, office and maintenance buildings with ablutions, and a substation for connection to the power grid, all within the 236 ha PV plant site.

It is proposed that the 33kV powerlines within the facility be underground/sub-surface. From the proposed future substation tie-in to the Grootegeluk 33kV Substation will occur via 132kV overhead powerlines. The Grootegeluk 33 kV substation is located approximately 4km south-west of the proposed development site. (Refer to Figure 2)

Project Location

Province:	Limpopo
District:	Waterberg District Municipality
Local Municipality:	Lephalale Local Municipalities
Extent:	236 hectares
Zoning:	Mining
Ownership:	Exxaro Coal (Pty) Ltd
Current Use:	Vacant
Nearest Towns:	Marapong / Lephalale Rem of Appelvlakte 448 LQ
Farm Portions affected:	Portion 1 of Appelvlakte 448 LQ Daarby 458 LQ Portion 1 Nelsonkop 464 LQ Enkelbult 462 LQ

Project Applicant

Applicant:	K2021699383 (South Africa) Proprietary Limited
Representative:	Tracey Achterberg
Address:	The Connexion, 263 West Avenue, Die Hoewes, Centurion, 0157

Regulatory Context

National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA)

Section 24 of NEMA requires that certain listed activities, which may have an impact on the environment, trigger the need for environmental authorization from a relevant authority before commencing with the activities. Such activities are listed under Regulations Listing Notice 1 GNR 324, Listing Notice 2 GNR 325 and Listing Notice 3 GNR 327 (2014 as amended) of NEMA (as amended).

Applicable Listed Activities for this application is:

#	Activity Description
Listing Notice 1 (GN R327)	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of a 33/132kV substation complex including control rooms and grid control yards; ≤ 1 ha in extent. The construction of a 132kV transmission line of ± 4 km in length. Upgrading the existing Grootegeluk substation complex.
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of ≤ 15 km long, ≤ 8 m wide gravel access road running from the main Lephalale road to the site. The construction of ≤ 10 km of ≤ 4 m wide gravel internal service roads within the plant boundary.
Listing Notice 2 (GN R325)	
1	The construction of ≤ 256 ha Single Axis Tracker Photovoltaic Solar field; including solar module mounting structures comprised of galvanised steel and aluminium; electrical cables connecting the PV arrays to the inverter stations; access & internal roads; operations & maintenance area; collector substation; inverter/MV transformer stations; evacuation powerlines; battery storage facility.
4	The construction of a 100MWh Battery Energy Storage Facility with container heights of 5m (with lightning masts) and a volume of 2,700m ³ of batteries and associated operational, safety and control infrastructure.
15	The proposed activity footprint is approximately 256ha in total extent, as such, the clearance of potentially indigenous vegetation for the construction of the proposed Lephalale Solar Project will be approximately 256ha which is in excess of the 20ha threshold.

Considering the above, a full Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIR) process is to be undertaken.

National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA)

A Water Use License Application may need to be compiled and submitted to the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) to ensure the legality of the proposed project's water uses. The Water Use License Application will be conducted for the project in parallel with the EIA and EMP process for any activity in terms of Section 21 of the NWA.

The water uses triggered as part of the Solar Plant require authorisation in terms of Section 21 (a), (b) and (g) of the NWA:

Section 21:	
(a)	Groundwater abstraction
(b)	Temporary storage of raw water to be used for dust suppression during construction
(g)	Storage of sewage in a conservancy tank

Structure of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process

The EIA is a legislative tool used to ensure that the potential ENVIRONMENTAL impacts that may occur due to the proposed development are avoided or mitigated, if authorisation is granted. The 'environment' includes social, economic and biophysical aspects which the EIA must assess equitably.

The EIA process is divided into two phases, the Scoping Phase and the Impact Assessment Phase.

Scoping Phase:

The Scoping Phase aims to:

- Investigate and gather information on the proposed site, to establish an understanding of the area
- Establish how the proposed development activities will potentially impact on the environment
- Identify IAPs and relevant authorities by conducting a Public Participation Process
- Identify potential environmental impacts through investigation and PPP
- Describe the proposed project and potential Alternatives

Impact Assessment Phase:

During this phase, all issues/impacts and proposed alternatives identified in the Scoping Phase are assessed and are rated in terms of their significance. Where necessary, recommendations are made for the mitigation of potential negative impacts, or enhancement of potential positive impacts.

An Environmental Management Programme will also be compiled that will prescribe environmental specifications for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the project. As with the Scoping phase, a PPP is an integral part of the Assessment Phase.

Public Participation Process

The Public Participation Process (PPP) aims to inform a wide range of I&APs (*any person or organisation that has a direct, business, financial, personal or other interest in, or may be directly or indirectly affected by, the proposed project*) about the proposed development and the environmental process to be followed. It is a tool to allow the public to exchange information and to express their views and concerns on the proposed development for which the EIA is being conducted. The PPP assists in identifying potential issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the impact assessment by highlighting relevant information to be included in the assessment. PPP enables more accurate and descriptive analysis and helps to focus and enhance decision-making.

The EIA will be open and transparent to the public through this process with all registered IAPs continuously updated on events throughout the process. All contributions from IAPs must be fully documented, evaluated and responded to in the EIA.

Activities of the PPP:

The public is invited to register as an I&AP and take part in the PPP through:

- Media Notices placed in newspapers
- Distribution of the BID
- Site notice boards
- Public Open Days/Focus Group Meetings (as appropriate)
- Submission of comments on the media notices, BID, Draft Scoping and Impact Assessment Reports

How you can participate:

Interested and affected parties I&APs may forward their written comments along with their name, contact details and an indication of any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which they have in the application by post or email to:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - CONTACT DETAILS	
Contact Person(s):	Lehlogonolo Mashego 011 803 5726
Email:	lehlo@gcs-sa.biz
Postal Address:	PO Box 2597 Rivonia Johannesburg 2128



Next steps:

You have until the 10th of November 2021 to register as an I&AP in the first round of stakeholder engagement and to raise issues about the proposed project. The next step is the release of the Draft Scoping Report, which will detail the project, the baseline conditions of the affected area and the issues and concerns raised so far. It will also describe how the EIR will address concerns raised. Copies of the Report will be placed in public venues for review (taking cognisance of all required COVID-19 Protocols) and loaded onto the GCS Public Participation website. We will inform registered I&APs where to review the report and you will be given 30 days to comment on the report. We will inform you of the date of release and the dates and venues of any meetings to be held.

If you wish to raise any initial issues or concerns regarding the proposed project, or if you would like to register as an I&AP, please contact the public participation office as detailed above.

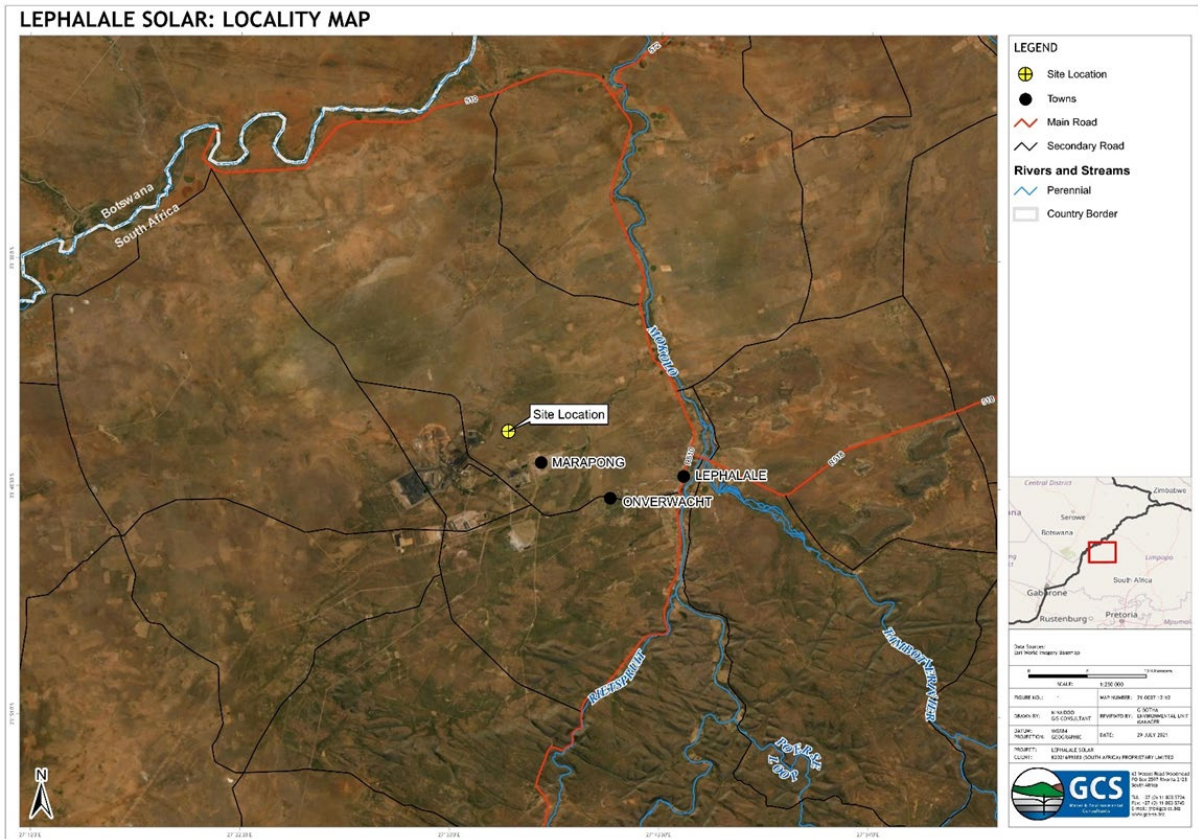


Figure 1: Site Locality Map and Regional Boundaries

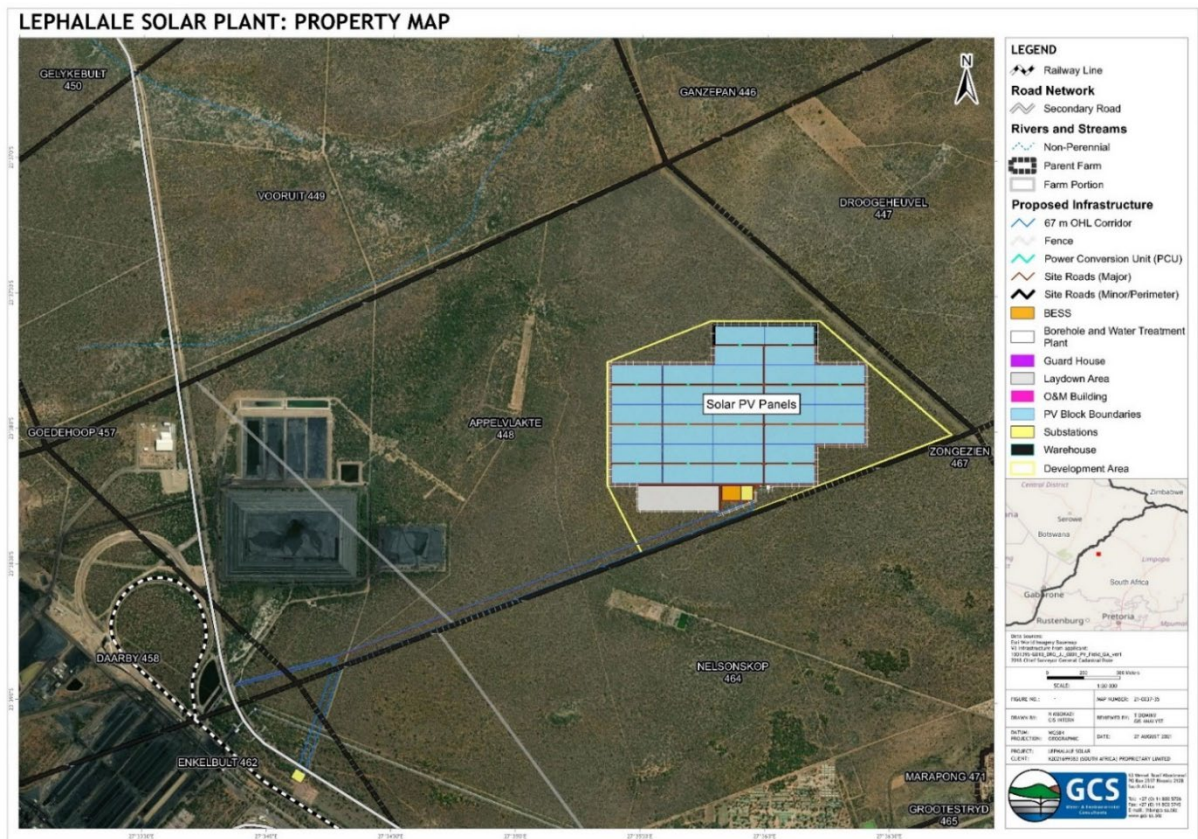



Figure 2: Site Layout of proposed project

		K2021699383 (South Africa) Proprietary Limited Lephalale, Limpopo Background Information Document I&AP Comment and Registration Form GCS Ref No: 21-0037				
		Name:		Surname:		
Organisation / interest:						
Postal / Residential address						
		Area:			Code:	
Contact details		Tel:	()			
		Fax:	()			
		Mobile:	()			
		Email:				
Please mark with an X to indicate whether you would like to participate in the process:						
Yes, I would like to participate in this process and receive periodic updates					<input type="checkbox"/>	
No, I am not interested in participating and do not wish to receive further information					<input type="checkbox"/>	
Preferred method of communication		Email		Fax	Post	
Date commented		(DD / MM / YYYY)				
Please indicate any issues, comments and concerns with regards to the proposed project						
Please indicate in which aspects you would require more information						
Please indicate the contact details of any other I&APs whom you think should be contacted						
Name:			Surname:			
Tel:	()		Fax:	()		
Mobile:	()					
Email:						
In order to be registered as an I&AP for this project, fax, mail, or e-mail the completed registration form to Lehlogonolo Mashego at: Tel: (011) 803 5726 Email: lehlo@gcs-sa.biz Post: PO Box 2597, Rivonia, 2128						

NOTES:
