

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

### PROPOSED PV2-PV7 PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY PLANTS ON FARM KLIPGATS PAN NEAR COPPERTON, NORTHERN CAPE



JULY 2013



PLANTS	DEA REF NO	NEAS REF NO	PLANTS	DEA REF NO	NEAS REF NO
PV2	14/12/16/3/3/2/486	DEAT/EIA/0001766/2013	PV5	14/12/16/3/3/2/489	DEAT/EIA/0001769/2013
PV3	14/12/16/3/3/2/487	DEAT/EIA/0001767/2013	PV6	14/12/16/3/3/2/490	DEAT/EIA/0001770/2013
PV4	14/12/16/3/3/2/488	DEAT/EIA/0001768/2013	PV7	14/12/16/3/3/2/491	DEAT/EIA/0001771/2013

## UPDATE OF DRAFT TO FINAL SCOPING REPORT

The DSR has been updated to the FSR via the inclusion of these Update Pages. Additional information has been included in Annexure B. A new annexure, Annexure E, providing a short explanation of the photovoltaic affect has been included.

These Update Pages describes the process followed since the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 40-day comment period from 30 April 2013 until 10 June 2013. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the DSR in response to the public participation process, and briefly reiterates the next steps in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

### Process since the lodging of the DSR

The process since the lodging of the DSR has been as follows:

- The DSR was made available to the public in Prieska (Elizabeth Vermeulen) Public Library, Ietznietz Guest House in Copperton and on the Aurecon website ([www.aurecongroup.com](http://www.aurecongroup.com)) - change "Current Location" to South Africa and follow the "Public Participation" link) from 30 April 2013.
- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the DSR for public comment by means of a letter in English and Afrikaans which dated 23 April 2013 (see **Annexure B**).
- The comment period ended on 10 June 2013 and a total of three written comments were received on the DSR. These are contained in **Annexure B** of the Final Scoping Report (FSR).
- All issues raised are summarised in the Comments and Response Report (CRR) and responses to queries raised compiled by the project team (refer to **Annexure B** of the FSR).

### Updating of the DSR to the FSR

A limited number of changes were made to the DSR and the associated Plan of Study for EIA as a result of comments raised. A limited number of changes were made to the DSR and the associated Plan of Study for EIA as a result of comments raised by I&APs. Information that has been added has been underlined. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.



### **General changes to the FSR:**

A number of minor changes were made to the Report that have not been highlighted in the text and include grammatical and typographic changes.

### **Changes to Chapter 4:**

- Section 4.3.3: The hydrology specialist have been changed from Mr Richard Hirst to Dr Nick Walker;
- Section 4.3.3: The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the conceptual stormwater plan was amended and is as follows:
  - Prepare a stormwater management plan to assess the pre- and post-development stormwater runoff from the sites and make recommendations to mitigate and / or accommodate increased and concentrated runoff for a range of storm recurrence intervals (typically 1:5 year and 1:100 year recurrence intervals). Increased and concentrated runoff would mainly manifest from the large impermeable solar panel surface areas and would require careful planning of a conceptual local stormwater drainage system.

Annexures have been updated and include:

- A copy of the advert that was placed in the Gemsbok on 26 April 2013 in **Annexure B**;
- Photos of notices erected on site in **Annexure B**;
- Updated list of registered I&AP in **Annexure C**;
- Comments that were submitted on the DSR and the CRR in **Annexure B**; and
- A short explanation of the photovoltaic affect in **Annexure E**.

Furthermore, the Table of Contents page that lists the annexures/ documents in the FSR has also been amended.

### **Updating of the Plan of Study for the EIA**

The ToR for the hydrology specialists has been amended (as described in the above section)

by I&APs. Information that has been added has been underlined. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

### **Updating of the Plan of Study for the EIA**

The ToR for the hydrology specialists has been amended (as described in the above section)

### **Way forward**

- These Update Pages has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database.
- The CRR have been sent to all I&APs who provided comment on the DSR.
- The FSR has been made available to the public at the same venues as the DSR, as well as on Aurecon's website ([www.aurecongroup.com](http://www.aurecongroup.com) - change "Current Location" to South Africa and follow the "Public Participation" link) from **23 July 2013 to 12 August 2013**.
- The FSR was submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration and review on 19 July 2013.

- DEA will review the FSR, including the Plan of Study for EIA (together with the CRR), and issue a letter, either:
  - (i) Accepting the FSR including Plan of Study for EIA and advise the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to proceed with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for EIA;
  - (ii) Request the EAP to make such amendments to the Report or the Plan of Study for EIA as the competent authority may require; or
  - (iii) Reject the scoping report if it does not contain material information required in terms of the EIA Regulations; or has not taken into account guidelines applicable in respect of Scoping Reports and Plans of study for EIA.
- The Draft EIA Report (EIAR), which is in the process of being compiled and will include the findings of the specialist studies, will be available for public review. All registered I&AP's will be timeously informed of their opportunity to provide further input.

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