

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED WIND AND SOLAR (PHOTOVOLTAIC) ENERGY FACILITIES NEAR SPRINGBOK, NORTHERN CAPE

WIND: DEA REF. NO.14/12/16/3/3/2/346 / NEAS REF. NO. DEA/EIA/0001222/2012
PV: DEA REF. NO.14/12/16/3/3/2/342 / NEAS REF. NO. DEAT/EIA/0001217/2012
WIND SUBSTATION & GRIDLINE: DEA REF. NO.14/12/16/3/3/2/386 / NEAS REF. NO. DEA/EIA/0001344/2012
SOLAR SUBSTATION & GRIDLINE: DEA REF. NO. 14/12/16/3/3/2/447 / NEAS REF. NO. DEA/EIA/0001597/2012

FEBRUARY 2013



UPDATE OF DRAFT TO FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

This Update Page describes the process followed since the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 40-day comment period from 27 November 2012 until 14 January 2013. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the Draft EIR in response to the public participation process, and briefly reiterates the next steps in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Public Participation Process regarding the lodging of the Draft EIR

The public participation process undertaken during the lodging of the Draft EIR entailed the following:

- I&APs were informed of the lodging of the Draft EIR and associated 40-day public comment period by means of letter posted and/or emailed on 23 November 2012. The letters were accompanied by an Executive Summary of the Draft EIR in English and/or Afrikaans to registered I&APs.
- The Draft EIR has been lodged at the Springbok and Pofadder Public Libraries and on Aurecon's website (www.aurecongroup.com change "Current Location" to "South Africa" and follow the "Public Participation" link) from 27 November 2012 until 14 January 2013.
- I&APs were invited to a public meeting on 12 December 2012 to present and discuss the findings of the Draft EIR at Springbok Exhibition Hall (Skousaal) at 17h00-19h00.

Written comments received during the comment period have been noted in the Comments and Response Report (CRR4), included in **Annexure C** of the Final EIR.

Updating of the Draft EIR to the Final EIR

A limited number of changes were made to the Draft EIR. Information that has been added has been underlined, while removed/ deleted information is indicated by a ~~strikethrough~~. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

General changes to the Final EIR:

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

- The Draft EIR has been updated and is now called: “Proposed Wind and solar (photovoltaic) Energy Facilities near Springbok, Northern Cape: Final Environmental Impact Assessment Report”.
- Grammatical and typographic changes.
- Numbering for tables and figures included in the Final EIR have been updated.

Annexures have been updated and include:

- Comments on the Draft EIR have been included in **Annexure C**.
- Comments on the Draft EIR have been responded to in the Comments and Response Report 4 in **Annexure C**.
- **Annexure B1, Annexure N1 and Annexure O** were updated.

Way forward

This Update Page has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database. The Final EIR has been made available to the public at the same venues as the Draft EIR, as well as on Aurecon’s website from 19 February 2013. The Final EIR was also submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration and review on 19 February 2013.

DEA will review the Final EIR, who must, within 60 days, do one of the following:

- (i) Accepting the Final EIR;
- (ii) Notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review;
- (iii) Request amendments to the report; or
- (iv) Reject the report if it does not materially comply with regulations.

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

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

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

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