

APPENDIX C6
COMMENTS RECEIVED





forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: +27 86 625 1042

Reference: Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3

Enquiries: Ms. Portia Makitla/ Ms. Mashudu Mudau

Telephone: 012 399 9411 **E-mail:** pmakitla@dffe.gov.za

Ms. Nicolene Venter
Savannah Environmental
1st Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive Office Park
Cnr of Woodlands Drive & Western Service Road
WOODMEAD
2191

Telephone Number: (+27) 11 656 3237
Email Address: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear MS. Venter

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT OF THE PROPOSED KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV3 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the reports.

Based on the information provided in the report, most of the site is considered to be of low sensitivity due to the lower abundance of protected species and dominance of vegetation which is generally an indicator of poor veld condition. However, it has been noted that during the study site assessment, the northern portion of the development area has been demarcated as Critical Biodiversity Area:1, and several species of concern have been recorded for both floral, fauna, and protected forest. It is recommended that these areas must be treated as No-go areas.

Furthermore, to minimize possible loss to biodiversity the following recommendation amongst others must be adhered to:

- Vegetation clearing prior and during construction must be limited to the footprint of the proposed development
- A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map. This map must reflect the proposed infrastructure's location (e.g., BESS).
- The 'no-go' areas of the development property must be clearly demarcated and must be excluded from the final layout plan.
- Where possible proposed infrastructure must be aligned to the existing development i.e., roads
- Anti-collision devices such as bird flappers must be installed where power lines cross avifaunal corridors (e.g., grasslands, rivers, wetlands, and dams)
- A Search and Rescue Plan to remove and relocate Species of Conservation Concern identified within the study area must be developed by a professional and qualified ecologist



Batho pele- putting people first

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DROOGFONTEIN 4 SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE ENERGY FACILITY, NEAR KIMBERLEY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

- Permit from relevant authorities must be obtained prior commencement of any construction activities for the disturbance or removal of any nationally or provincially protected species
- Erosion Management Plan, Maintenance Plan and Rehabilitation Plan of natural vegetation must be developed to mitigate on habitat degradation and consider all phases of the development
- Rehabilitation Plan must include the ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the surrounding natural vegetation
- Alien Invasive Plant Species Management and Rehabilitation Plans must be developed and submitted as part of the final report to mitigate on habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion.

In addition, please note that the Directorate Biodiversity Conservation does not support any development within a very highly sensitive area that will result with significant negative residual impacts after mitigation.

In conclusion, the Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA for review and queries should be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email; BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za for the attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota.

Yours faithfully



Mr Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Date: 01/12/2022





forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2223

Enquiries: Azrah Essop

Telephone: (012) 310 8529 **E-mail:** AEssop@dffe.gov.za

Ms Nkhensani Masondo
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
P.O. Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2191

Telephone Number: 011 656 3237
Email Address: nkhensani@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Masondo

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV3 FACILITY IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (FSR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated December 2022 and received by the Department on 1 December 2022, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted FSR and the PoSEIA dated December 2022 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The FSR and the PoSEIA is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

1. Listed Activities

- a) The EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- b) The listed activities represented in the EIAR and the application form must be the same and correct.
- c) The EIAR must assess the correct sub-listed activity for each listed activity applied for. The onus is on the EAP and applicant to ensure that no other activities are triggered, and the correct activities are applied for.

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2. **Public Participation**

- a) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR.
- b) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the FSR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- c) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter in chronological order. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as “noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.
- d) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- e) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

3. **Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- a) The EIAR must provide the following:
 - Clear indication of the envisioned area for the solar PV facility, i.e., location of solar PV, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); powerlines, supporting Infrastructure: main sub-station, operation and maintenance office, weather station, internal roads, parking, offices, staff ablutions and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Powerlines;
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.
- b) An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- c) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

4. **Specialist assessments**

- a) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - A detailed description of the study’s methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.

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- Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.
 - All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
 - Should a specialist recommend specific mitigation measures, these must be clearly indicated.
 - Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.
- b) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.
- c) The screening tool output:
- The screening tool and the gazetted protocols (GN R320 of 20 March 2020 and GN R 1150 of 30 October 2020) require a site sensitivity verification to be completed to either confirm or dispute the findings and sensitivity ratings of the screening tool.
 - It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm the list of specialist assessments and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist studies including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation. The site sensitivity verification for each of the recommended studies, as per the protocols, must be compiled and attached.
- d) Additionally, the protocols specify that an assessment must be prepared by a specialist who is an expert in the field and is SACNASP registered for e.g. an aquatic assessment must be prepared by a specialist registered with SACNASP, with expertise in the field of aquatic sciences.
- e) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and were necessary, include further expertise advice.
- f) Please include a table that shows the proposed studies and the relevant specialists carrying out the study. In addition, a summary should be included of the specialist's recommendations in terms of the alternatives that are preferred based on the findings of their study.

General

Kindly expand on the applicant's intention with the existing EA for Kotulo Tsatsi CPS 2 i.e. (DFFE Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/694/2). The status of this EA must be taken into consideration and must be demonstrated to this Department whether the applicant intends to lapse this EA.

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The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, regarding the time allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

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 faithfully



Mr Vusi Skosana
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Signed by: Mr Wayne Hector
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 23/01/23

| | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| cc: | Adriaan Botha | Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd | Email: AttieBotha@KotuloTsatsiEnergy.com |
| | Bryan Fisher | Northern Cape: DENC | Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za |
| | Jl Swartz | Hantam Local Municipality | Email: Jiswartz@hantam.gov.za |

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

| Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP | Comment | Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist |
|---|--|---|
| 27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe) | Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority | EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form |

Annexure 2: Sample of minimum technical details for the proposed facility

| Component | Description / dimensions |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations | |
| Capacity of on-site substation | |
| PV array | |
| Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas | |
| Area occupied by buildings | |
| Length of internal roads | |
| Width of internal roads | |
| Proximity to grid connection | |
| Height of fencing | |

SCOPING PHASE

Organs of State



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2223

Enquiries: Ms Azrah Essop

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Ms Nkhensani Masondo
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PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2191

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: nkhensani@savannahsa.com; /
karen@savannahsa.com

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Masondo

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV3 FACILITY, BESS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR KENHARDT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated October 2022 and received by the Department on 17 October 2022, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final SR:

1. **Competent Authority**

Clarify the reason for this department being the competent authority in terms of S24C of NEMA. This must be expanded on and updated in the application form as well as the report.

2. **Listed Activities**

- a) It is noted that the proposed solar facility does not fall within any renewable energy development zones.
- b) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed.
- c) Please include the capacity of the proposed onsite substation and powerline(s) in the project description under Activity 11 LN1.
- d) It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and

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submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.

- e) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.dffe.gov.za/documents/forms>,

3. **Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- a) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
- the PV development area;
 - Position of all infrastructure e.g. panels, BESS, substations, grid connection etc.;
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
 - All existing infrastructure on the site.
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- b) The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the map and infrastructure must not encroach on highly sensitive areas as far as possible.
- c) Ensure that similar colours are not used to differentiate between infrastructure. i.e. items must be easily distinguishable in the Legend.
- d) Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

4. **Project Overview:**

- a) It is mentioned on page 4, that *'The development area was previously authorised for the development of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technology (DEFF Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/694/2), known as Kotulo Tsatsi Concentrated Solar Plant 2. However, this project is no longer being considered for the site as the development of CSP no longer forms part of the energy mix of the Country as indicated in the IRP.'* The proposed development lies within an area previously authorised for CSP project infrastructure, kindly provide further information where possible in this regard.
- b) Kindly clarify whether the grid connection is part of this application or whether existing infrastructure will be utilised. Section 8.2. states that the grid will not be reassessed, however, it is included in project infrastructure and the listed activities.

5. **Public Participation Process**

- a) Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: BCAdmin@dffe.gov.za) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process (PPP) must be

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conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

- b) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments (pre and post submission of the draft SR) for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

6. **Specialist Assessments to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

- a) It is noted, under section 8.2. that the applicant intends to utilise previous specialist information conducted through the assessment for Kotulo Tsatsi CSP2. It is acceptable to use this information as a basis point for current specialist assessments, however, specialist assessments produced for Kotulo Tsatsi PV3 must be specific to the current project. Specialist studies must not be older than 5 years for you to use it for the current project.
- b) Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of PV arrays, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- c) The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- d) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- e) It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.** Please note further that the protocols require the specialists' to be registered with SACNASP in their respective field.
- f) Additionally, the protocols specify that an assessment must be prepared by a specialist who is an expert in the field and is SACNASP registered for e.g. an aquatic assessment must be prepared by a specialist registered with SACNASP, with expertise in the field of aquatics sciences.
- g) The screening tool output:
- The screening tool and the gazetted protocols (GN R320 of 20 March 2020 and GN R 1150 of 30 October 2020) require a site sensitivity verification to be completed to either confirm or dispute the findings and sensitivity ratings of the screening tool.
 - Site sensitivity verifications for all the identified specialist studies (according to the screening tool) must be provided.
 - The screening tool (Application form) identifies thirteen (13) Specialist reports. It is the responsibility of the EAP to confirm this list and to motivate in the assessment report, the reason for not including any of the identified specialist study including the provision of photographic evidence of the site situation. The site sensitivity verification for each of the recommended studies, as per the protocols, must be compiled and attached. If the findings of

the site verification differed from the screening tool and was found to be of a different sensitivity level, then a compliance statement would be acceptable.

- Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department's Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements/protocols recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report per the requirements of the Protocols.
- h) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.

7. **Cumulative Assessment to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

It is noted that the PV facility is planned adjacent to the authorised Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV 1 and PV2 and occurs within an area previously authorised for CSP project infrastructure. Kindly ensure to expand on this in the scoping and EIA reports.

8. **Environmental Management Programme**

The EMP must include the following:

- a) It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the Generic Environmental Management Programme, must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMP for the facility i.e. separate EMP for the substation, powerline and the facility.
- b) Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMP in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a SR which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of SRs in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

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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



Ms Milicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Letter signed by: Mr Wayne Hector
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 02/11/22

| | | | |
|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| cc: | Adriaan Botha | Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd | Email: AttieBotha@KotuloTsatsiEnergy.com |
| | Bryan Fisher | Northern Cape: DENC | Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za |
| | Jl Swartz | Hantam Local Municipality | Email: Jiswartz@hantam.gov.za |



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Enquiries: Chris Schutte
Telephone: 078 741 5862
E-mail: Schutce5@telkom.co.za

Our Ref no: CKEN0632-22

Your Ref: **Kotulo Tsatsi Energy Grid Connection Corridor**

26 October 2022

Savannah Environmentals
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

FOR ATTENTION: Nicolene Venter

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV3 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

With reference to your above- mentioned application, I hereby confirm that the proposed work installation is approved in terms of Section 29 of the Electronic Communications Act No. 36 of 2005 as amended.

No infrastructure of our Client (Openserve) will be affected by this proposal. **We did our utmost to ensure that we indicate our route as accurate as possible and should you discover any of our cables that is not on the sketch please stop and contact us immediately to arrange a site meeting. In the event that our cables are exposed and damaged/stolen by a third party the damages will be repaired at the customer's account. Please make use of pilot holes in order not too damage our infrastructure.** Therefore any damages occurred during construction of work will be repaired at the customer's account.

Although we are not affected by this proposal, Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738 from our Network Field Services. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work.

Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval.

Any changes/deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.

On completion of this project, please certify that all requirements as stipulated in this letter have been met. Please note that should any of our Client (Openserve) infrastructure has to be

relocated or altered as a result of your activities the cost for such alteration or relocation will be for your account in terms of section 25 of the Electronic Communication Act.

Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.

Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then the file must be resubmitted for approval. Any changes / deviations from the original planning during or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office.

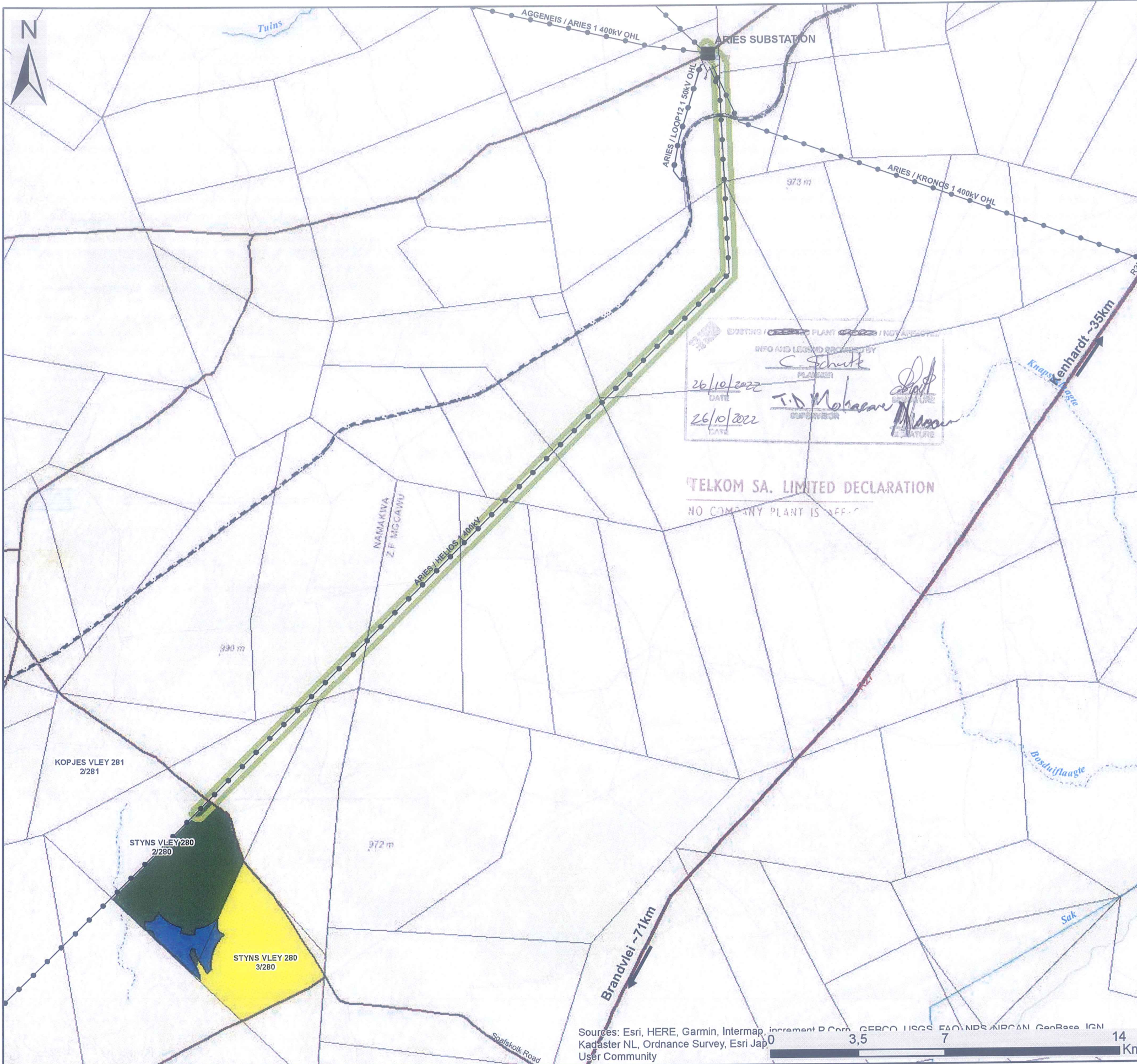
Please notify this office and forward an as built plan, within 30 days of completion of construction.

Mr Vivian Groenewald must be contacted at telephone number 081 362 6738. Two (2) weeks prior to commencement of proposed work. It's important that all services are shown on site before construction starts.

Yours sincerely



CHRIS SCHUTTE



Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 Facility, Northern Cape Locality Map

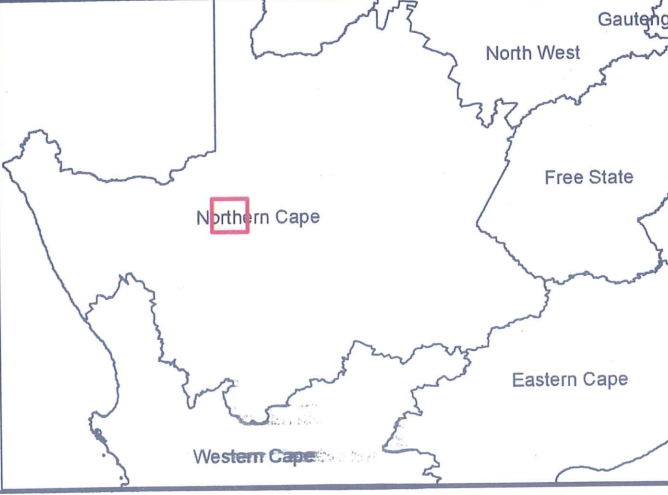
Legend

- Eskom substation
- Existing Power Line
- Regional road
- Main road
- Railway
- Perennial river
- Non-perennial river
- Authorised Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1
- Authorised Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV2
- Farm portions
- Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 Development Area
- Grid Connection Corridor (500m wide)

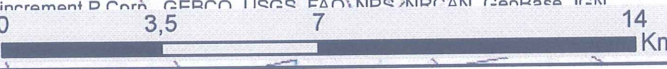
EXISTING / PLANT / NOT ASSIGNED
 INFO AND LEGEND PROVIDED BY
 C. Schutte
 PLANNER
 DATE: 26/10/2022
 T.D. Makare
 SUPERVISOR
 DATE: 26/10/2022

TELKOM SA. LIMITED DECLARATION
 NO COMPANY PLANT IS AFFECTED

Scale: 1: 150 000
 Projection: WGS1984
 Map Ref: Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV3 - Locality Map



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, User Community



Savannah Environmental Pty (Ltd)
First Floor, Block 2
5 Woodlands Drive Office Park
Cnr Woodland Dr & Western Service Road
Woodmead
2191

Email: niclene@savannahsa.com

Date: 09 December 2020

To whom it may concern

RE: SARAO'S COMMENTS ON KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1 SCOPING REPORT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

SARAO has completed the preliminary risk assessment with regard to the electromagnetic emissions of the for the above mentioned solar PV facilities and its possible impact on the SKA radio telescope.

The proposed project is located about 52km from the nearest SKA Infrastructure Territory and also located inside the Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Areas 1. As a result, the project represents a **medium to high risk** of interference to the SKA radio telescope. This level of risk, will require that the developer of the facility to determine the anticipated level of radiated electromagnetic emissions in order for SARAO to undertake a compliance assessment.

In the case where the determined radiated emissions exceed the compliance limits and interferes with the SKA radio telescopes, the developer will be required to develop an EMC control plan and implement mitigation measures prior to construction, to ensure that the levels do not produce harmful interference to the SKA radio telescopes.

SARAO does not object to the development of Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, however, commitment to determine radiated emissions, develop EMC control plan and implement mitigation measures must be included in the EMPr.

www.ska.ac.za

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation and incorporates all national radio astronomy telescopes and programmes. SARAO is responsible for implementing the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa.

We apologise for late submission and our office remains open to discuss any matter relating to the above.

Regards,



Mr Selaelo Matlhane
Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)
Tel: 011 442 2434
Email: smatlhane@ska.ac.za

Interested and Affected Parties

Agricultural Extension Services (AES)

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Ref:kotuTE/Stynvley/01/ 22

21/11/2022

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Beste Nicolene

Navrae oor: Solar Voltaic scoping report for facility includes linear infrastructure, PV1,PV2 & PV3~ SW Kenhardt, vir Kotula Tstatsi Energy (Pty)

With respect to the above application(s) to apply for access to, inspect the farms; Styn's Vley 280, ect.. for suitable grazing camps, in the Hantam & Namakwa district municipalities (as advertised in the Gemsbok koerant 14 Oct' 22). AES is an affected party (that provides services to farms in the area, requests the following information as part of Environmental and Human Rights. Would you reply accurately to these questions so they become public knowledge, some require data from Kotula Tstatsi Energy (KTE) personnel;

Water usage

A. Who is the adjudicator in the application for a water use license for PV1,PV2 &PV3 plus facilities? Can you provide contact details of the Dept Water affairs and or CMA.

How much water are the combined projects of PV1,PV2 & PV3 planning to use from;

- 1) Underground reserves
- 2) The Gariiep River (possibly by the municipal pipeline)

What is the minimum amount of potable water, that PV1,PV2 & PV3 (are combined), utilize a year, during part of the project construction & maintenance activities?

2.51. Project Footprint

The size, extent and location of the footprint is part of a process, that should be re-evaluated given the ecological and social impacts of other solar arrays construction projects, in the Northern Cape, that have become unsustainable. For the negative effects on social dynamics & ecological integrity outweigh so called benefit of industrialization.

2.5.7 Recycling of waste & broken infrastructure pg 20

The dorps of Keimoes, Kenhardt and Brandvlei, do not yet have sufficient solid waste recycling facilities. Where are metals containing toxic elements such as, aluminum, cadmium, lead,

mercury & others, to be removed to (Bloemfontein? or the SW Cape?) for recycling?

Are depots for recycling, ferrous metals, plastics (of all types), glass, used engine oil, hazardous chemicals, to be set up in any of the local towns? Explain where.

- How much does KTE budget for various phases (construction, maintenance & decommissioning) for preventing & cleaning up oil & hydraulic leaks from drilling and other combustion machinery on site?

Waste water treatment

An alternative to chemical toilets should be considered as petrol & diesel costs, are costly. Also fewer motors on the roads results in fewer incidences with itinerant wildlife and fewer accidents with other vehicles and birds.

3.2.1 Fundamentally different alternatives

The need for solar generated electricity is primarily in urban areas and hence alternatives to PV1, PV2 & PV3 need to be found in those urban areas, where the demand is. For these reasons;

The impacts on the biodiversity have proven to be highly negative in terms of species abilities to navigate, adverse affects around human habitation and linear infrastructure such as road & train networks. Currently many birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibian species are not able to cross over roads with the amount of traffic. The construction phases of the solar array projects have brought more vehicle, faster drivers, stubborn, reckless fast moving drivers from outside the Noord Kaap province. The impact on abundance and distributions of many small mammals particularly the striped pole cat (*Actonyx striatus*), Black footed cat (vulnerable), Serval (near threatened), Honey Badger (near threatened¹).

Rehabilitation costs to restore biodiversity levels are need to be calculated carefully, in the feasibility analysis of any venture. For instance, plant assemblages are require viable seed, nutrient specific micro sites for germination & establishment, the climatic conditions also need to be favourable. If the facility is closed during a drought, restoration of the vegetation communities may take as long as 30-50 years. While animals who are important for moving nutrients and dispersing seeds many be in very short supply, how is the ecosystem to self replicate into the future?

Chapter 4

4.3 Pg 35. Table 4.1. SIP, bottom point on page, Strictly speaking “green energy” is just from photosynthesis. This project used fossil fuels, to reach the location on many times. It is just a regular industrial energy project.

Pg 36. In Table 4.1. Climate Change Bill 2018, last point, is incorrect, Cognisance, is required to

¹ The statutes of these animals and many others has not be accurately assessed since 2020

understand that fossil fuels need to be phased out from all KTE project operations. The project has been planned using fossil fuels, the project needs to be built with other sources of energy, to keep with sustainable development objectives. Just collecting & replacing the chemical treatment of water facilities & and recycling solid waste on site is going to require a solar powered trucks. All employees and contractors on the site would require solar powered vehicles for the last statement to be correct.

Pg 37. Northern Cape, climate change policy, MEC's address correctly notes that the northern Cape's arid ecosystems are extremely vulnerable to climate change driven desertification. This project is going to accelerate desertification in the Kenhardt & Brandvlei region's, by altering key ecosystem processes (such as disturbance of nurse plants in areas, where plant establishment requires micro shaded and moist sites. Another scenario; less rainfall would require more dependence on the Gariep river.

Chapter 5

There may be a need from humans in the region for, cash (to buy food and pay for services), skill transfers. For example Afrimat's management on an other solar construction project, prefers foreign born Africans, to be the site foreman. Manager of construction crew is person needs to be found from the region, to allow a better skills transfer and less social friction.

- A) Leave their companies bakkies running at fuel stations while filling up with petrol.
- B) capture single women from local taverns & intern them in construction camps as sex slaves.
- C) drive drunk, reckless driving at night,
- D) don't apply for fishing licenses for the Gariep river.
- E) are rude to local people, insensitive to cultural norms especially on the weekends.
- F) waste companies money by over using bakkies and emitting unnecessary exhaust fumes when they could walk & leave less of a disturbance.

Regarding company's sustainable objective and environmental ethics

Has KTE installed photo-voltaic panels in their offices and homes ?

What are KTE's previous operating credentials?

What percentage of heavy metals (from equipment), plastic and paper waste, is recycled at

- 1) head office?
- 2) Suppliers of all the equipment to be transported to site?
- 3) Logistic & engineering firms that are proposed to have work on the development envelope?

Where are the solar panels, inverters, batteries procured from? and what are the environmental standards of the various companies?

What sorts current or past vegetation (& aquatic ecosystems) restoration projects is KTE engaged in. Send evidence if they have restored land or polluted waterways or vleis.

Chapter 6.

When are the public participation meetings to be held in Keimoes, Kenhardt & Brandvlei? Send out notices at least a month in advance. Where villages & farmers can hear about the indirect and direct cumulative impacts of unsustainable industrialization! Uneducated people need to hear about, water resource sharing and communal livestock opportunities, that have been offered in english only to certain politically correct cartels.

Chapter 7.

1. A map of the soils (Fig7.2) for CSP2 overlaid with the vegetation communities (Fig 7.3), Another map with the site plan for the panel arrays, ect.. overlaid over Fig 7.3
2. A map that shows the ESA's & the CBA's overlaid with the site plan.
3. As the KTE, PV project has impacts at the regional level, that translates into possible catchment level. Descriptions of the migration movements of birds and mammals in the larger Kenhardt district are required. Surveys must take into account, itinerant, indigenous birds & animals of conservation importance, that may not reside in the area but that move back & forth to at a particular season. Including what troops of Chacma baboons are currently foraging over all the selected farms, within 70-80km radius of the farm's boundaries. Particularly rare and endangered itinerant birds, need to be monitored

that range from Preiska to the western side of Brandvlei and from Keimoes to the foot of the Hantam hills, in the south.

Pg. 101 Various Amphibian & reptile species (9 of the former & 25 of the later were potentially recorded for the locality) range over the regional area. Can Savannah Environmental determine the approximate populations in the region, that includes PV1, PV2 & PV3. To avoid cumulative impacts on these species can the field zoologist. Look at an area 35-40km's radius from the centre of the PV's site?

As mammals are also itinerant over a larger range than reptiles. What are their seasonal and yearly distribution patterns over a larger area, 70-80km's radius of the centre of the PV site? Pg 103 includes maps showing the ESA's and CBA's, these were overlain with other species movement data, to arrive at Fig 9.1. pg 137. How can the site plan (a.k.a development envelope minus a 35m buffer zone), be adjusted to incorporate biodiversity offsets. So that for instance, areas on adjacent farms that are of lesser biological importance can be traded for areas that have high conservation of biodiversity priority?

The valley floor see Fig 7.3 should receive no impact!!

Pg 120, The table of, nature of impacts, extent needs a number!!

Also the cumulative loss of habitat has regional effects, that should be adjusted.

The avifaunal consultant states that rare & threatened Raptors and Bustards should receive higher priority to live. Sending a message to those people in the city wishing to recharge their cell phones, install photo-voltaic panels on their houses and offices.

Cumulative Impacts pg. 127 & 128, have a table that indicates the areas that could be potentially lost to both, livestock agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and future sustainable use alternatives. That is a regional impact!

8.4.1 pg 131

An analysis of the embodied energy costs of such a project need to be calculated. To start what

amount of fossil fuels are currently used to move KTE's employees motor vehicles & aircraft around, gauteng? To project sites?

What is the anticipated diesel and petrol volumes to be used during the planning, construction, maintenance and decommissioning of PV1, PV2 & PV3? As Climate change actions, requires reducing GHG emissions in the short term.

Cleaner energy - The manufacturers of the PV equipment also need to use cleaner technologies, to prevent the emissions of toxic metals, such as aluminium, cadmium, lead, mercury out of the factories. As cleaner technology requires better filters inside the industrial processes that generated technological gadgets for industry, military and domestic uses

Another pertinent question to the DME is what are the end users of the solar generated energy doing with the electricity. Industries both nationally and internationally need to be screened, evaluated and monitored to reduce their wastage of electricity!! Also

Sending South African metallic ores to china and other countries that generate electricity from coal need to be halted, in order to cut CO₂ emissions

Climate change models do predict higher ambient temperatures for the region, this would result in creased wildfires if alien and or pioneer grasses were to be the dominant vegetation cover.

Fires release carbon hence the revegetation planning after project decommissioning must be done by local vegetation restoration experts. At all costs fire temperatures must be kept low to avoid damage to the soil (and associated biological life), plants and animals.

9.4 Fatal flaws

The PV1, PV2 & PV3 project is too large to not have many fatal flaws, in a area where, indigenous palatable, plant growth is very slow, hence vegetation restoration shall require over 10 years of consistent gardening. Many of the environmental flaws also occur off the site, such as processing of additional toxic waste that is an output from the manufacturing process of solar panels. One of the flaws is that the company did not consider focusing on installing PV panels, on roofs in existing urban areas, such as Upington & Kimberly (even retrofitting retailers in smaller towns such as the spar). Existing roofing provides adequate space for malls and offices (underneath) to host & service PV facilities for powering the electricity demands of shoppers.

10.4 Consideration of Alternatives

KTE should rather concentrate on retrofitting existing buildings in urban areas. This reduces the transaction costs and transformation costs to an almost pristine environment!

Additional Questions from AES

- How much money and human resource budget is set aside (in a ethically managed Trust) for rehabilitation to allow successful farming after decommissioning of the photovoltaic arrays ?
- How flexible is KTE in working out a proper sampling time scheduling? Given the critical seasons that birds and animals are mating and nesting, are too be quiet times. What is the highest decibel noise emitted from KTE's drilling and site engines? In this regard, how does Savannah environmental personnel, plan to prepare the Environmental Safety officers for the site, given that there may be cultural & ethical differences between him/her and the prospecting geologist and contractor teams?
- What sort of compensation is offered to villages & farmers; for construction & maintenance activities that hinder; farming operations, current and future water quality, & wild animal & bird breeding successes?

When are you holding the first the I&AP meeting in Brandvlei en Kenhardt after the specialist studies are completed, stuur kennisgewings in Afrikaans.

Groete

Marc Caplan

Reg. No. 400107/08 SACNSP

Agricultural Extension Services (AES)

Nicolene Venter

From: Attie Botha <attiebotha@kotulotsatsienergy.com>
Sent: Thursday, 03 November 2022 09:31
To: Nicolene Venter; Karen Jodas
Subject: Fwd: Kotulo Tsatsi School project

Best Regards,

Dr Attie Botha, CEO

Mobile: +27(0)82 824 1684 | Email: AttieBotha@KotuloTsatsiEnergy.com | Website: www.KotuloTsatsiEnergy.com



Before printing this email, keep our environment in mind.

Disclaimer: For more information regarding the full legal disclaimer pertaining to this email, visit our website.

Begin forwarded message:

From: bemarker@hmoskool.co.za
Date: 03 November 2022 at 09:12:41 SAST
To: info@kotulotsatsienergy.com
Subject: Kotulo Tsatsi School project

To whom it may concern.
Good day

We are very excited about the Kotulo Tsatsi Project in our vicinity.

Hoërskool Martin Oosthuizen (Kakamas) is the closest High School and hostel for the learners of Kenhardt, Brandvlei, Keimoes and surrounding areas.

If possible, please can you provide me with contact details of the HR department or the person that are responsible for the BEE-projects of the Kotulo Tsatsi Energy project?

Thank you very much.

Kind regards
Ilze Pieterse
Cell 0711546427