

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE PROPOSED MAREETSANE BATHO-BATHO SOLAR PV FACILITY

Prepared for:

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Date: February 2014
SEF Ref No. 504744
DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/514
NEAS Ref: DEA/EIA/0001785/2013

Comment Raised	Interested and Affected Party	Date & Method of Communication	Response
Draft Scoping Report			
Route B traversing Jakkasdans property is not viable since the additional powerline will impede maize production on the route because of the non availability of sufficient space.	Mr A.L. and Mr L. Swanepoel	24/04/2013 and 03/05/2013: Email	<p>Comment noted. Three (3) powerline route alternatives, as highlighted in the Draft Scoping Report for the proposed project are being considered and will be assessed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).</p> <p>The preferred alternative will be determined in the Draft EIR and will be based on the environmental sensitivities as well as comments from farmers. The preferred alternative will therefore have the least negative environmental, social and economic impacts.</p>
The erection and maintenance of the infrastructure related to this project would also seriously interfere with farming activities.			Comment noted. The Soils and Agricultural Potential Study will investigate such impacts and look at the possible mitigation measures. Such mitigation measures will be prescribed in the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).
Route A would be considered to be a better option since both routes A and B are of almost the same distance, yet route A would impede less on the arable land and sensitive areas along the route line.			The various specialist studies will look at the possible impacts of the proposed routes and then recommend the alternative that would be more favourable in terms of environmental impacts, practicality and costs. Your comment has been noted and will be considered as well.
Planning must include the status quo of the road access point near to the railway line in the corner of the Alicevale properties (park of Woodpark) of Mr. A.L. Swanepoel and L. Swanepoel must be maintained.			Comment noted and will be integrated into the Draft EIR and mitigation measures will be included within the EMPr.
Planning must consider the future erection of homesteads on both the Alicevale (part of Woodpark) and Jackalsdans properties. The glare factor (depending on the angle of the solar panels) must be considered.			Comment noted. SEF would like to request all affected parties to share their future plans in order for this to be taken into account during the assessment of impacts, particularly visual impacts. Various technology alternatives have been considered and will be investigated/ assessed during the EIR phase of the proposed project. A Visual Impact Assessment is also being undertaken which will detail the visual impacts the proposed development will have on the surrounding visual receptors (i.e. people). The glare factor must be taken into account as there may be future houses on the adjacent farms.
The current fire path must be maintained on the Alicevale borderline on that side of the Solar PV Facility.			Comment noted. This will be included within the EMPr.
Final Scoping Report			
Mr Woods is a consultant to Clare Energy and Habitat Pty Ltd, who have completed an EIA for the proposed Harmony Solar Park, which is the project for which	Mr Mark Wood	28/06/2013: Email	Mr Wood was informed of the review period of the Draft Scoping Report. By the time he requested the report, the review period had lapsed. The Final Scoping Report had been put out on public review.

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<p>NEMA authorisation was granted. The site is located on the farm Koedoesrand 569 Remainder Portion. The property is owned by Harmony Gold Mining Company and is about 2 km south of the Eskom substation that Route A of the powerlines associated with the Mareetsane Batho-Batho Solar PV is looking to connect into.</p> <p>Mr Wood requested to be placed on your Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP's) database, representing Clare Energy and Habitat. He also wanted to know whether Kalgold or Harmony Gold Mining Company are on the I&AP's database; stating that they should be since they own the land around the Eskom substation.</p> <p>Mr Wood requested for a copies of the Background Information Document and the Draft Scoping Report, and following this all further documentation that is available for public review in the EIA process.</p>			<p>He was also informed that he has been added into the I&AP's database. It was further stated that Koedoesrand 569 Remainder Portion owned by Kalgold or Harmony Gold Mining Company is approximately 2 kilometres away from the proposed Route A alternative powerline and approximately 12 km away from the site and was therefore not deemed to be affected. Nevertheless, they will be informed of any developments on the project.</p> <p>Copies of the notification letters for the review of the Draft and Final Scoping Reports, as well as the Final Scoping Report were provided to Mr Wood.</p>
<p>The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) requested for the property descriptions of the properties affected by the proposed Solar PV facility. The DRDLR needed to confirm if the properties are affected by restitution claims or not.</p>	<p>Department of Rural Development and Land Reform: Ms Agnes Montwedi</p>	<p>05/06/2013 and 02/07/2013: Email</p>	<p>The site falls within a parent portion of the Setlagoli Native Reserve and has an SG Code: BOIO00000000030400000. The site has been surveyed and a draft SG diagram has been compiled. Please note that the SG diagram has been submitted to the SG's office for registration.</p>
<p>There is no land claim lodged against properties: Portion 3, 8 and 9 of the farm Woodpark 559 IO and Setlagole Native Reserve. However, it is possible that the land claim for the property is registered with a different name in department's database. The department then requested that another name by which the property is known be forwarded to them, if any.</p>			<p>Comment Noted. With regards to the proposed site, please note that Setlagoli Native Reserve is the correct name instead of Setlagole Native Reserve used in your correspondence but the information still has not changed. The land on which the proposed site is located is referred to as Mareetsane Batho-Batho Tribal Land for the purposes of this study.</p>
<p>The DRDLR would like to acknowledge your company for the notification on the project.</p>	<p>Department of Rural Development</p>	<p>04/02/2014 Email</p>	<p>Thank you very much for acknowledgement and sharing your comments.</p>

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<p>Please note that in terms of the State Land Disposal Act No. 48 of 1961 the minister of DRDLR has to approve/ratify any lease agreement on communal land.</p> <p>Your organisation is therefore referred to the Department's State Land Administration office that deals with State Land Lease and Disposal issues.</p> <p>If the process to request the Minister of DRDLR for a long term lease has not been done, I advise you to contact the office of State Land Administration in Mmabatho.</p>	<p>and Land Reform: Mr Sunday Ogunronbi</p>		<p>A letter of enquiry for leasing of land for the proposed project was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) on 25 March 2013. The DAFF notified the applicant of the fact that any land that falls under tribal owned land or owned by a chief is exempted from Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70, Act 70 of 1970. However if the land falls within Subdivision of Agricultural Land Act 70, Act 70 of 1970, an application for lease indicating the hectares to be leased and the agreement between the applicant and the landowner would need to be submitted. The title deeds, clear zoomed locality map, memorandum explaining the application etc. would have to accompany the application documentation. Please refer to Appendix 4 for all correspondences.</p> <p>A lease agreement was signed by the applicant and the landowner on 08 August 2012. Please refer to Appendix 10 for the lease agreement.</p>
Draft Environmental Impact Report			
<p>Your enquiry regarding approval from the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) with regard to PV farms refers. There is a CAA process whereby permission is applied for with respect to obstacles which could pose an aviation hazard.</p>	<p>South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) Ms Lizell Stroh</p>	<p>03/12/2013 Email</p>	<p>An application was submitted to the SACAA for approval on 25 March 2013. Consent was given on 11 July 2013 for the proposed solar facility and associated infrastructure to ensure safe conduct of civil aviation. Please refer to Appendix 4 for the approval letter.</p>