

12 November 2012

Dear Organ of State,

**FIVE (5) PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY
FACILITIES AND ONE PROPOSED SUBSTATION, NEAR NOUPOORT,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND
AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT REPORTS FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

Terra Solar (Pty) Ltd (under separate applicants / Special Purposed Vehicles) is proposing to establish five commercial photovoltaic solar energy facilities, a substation as well as associated infrastructure on sites located approximately 15 km north-east of Noupoort in the Northern Cape Province.

Each solar energy facility is proposed to accommodate the following infrastructure:

- » Arrays of photovoltaic (PV) panels with an installed capacity of up to 20 MW;
- » Inverter/Transformer enclosures;
- » A new 132 kV – 66 kV step-down substation is proposed in order to connect each of the solar energy facilities into the Eskom grid. *A separate basic assessment report will be compiled for the substation (referred to as the TSE substation).* The developer will build the substation and thereafter hand it over to Eskom (who will then own, operate and maintain the substation).
- » Power lines
- » Mounting structure to be either rammed steel piles or piles with pre-manufactured concrete footing to support the PV panes;
- » Cabling between the project components, to be lain underground where practical;
- » Internal access roads;
- » Fencing; and
- » Workshop area for maintenance, storage and offices.

Based on a pre-feasibility analysis and site identification process undertaken by the developer, favourable sites have been identified for consideration and evaluation through the basic assessment processes. These properties fall within the Umsobomvu Local Municipality. Each project is proposed on the following farm portions:

- » Damfontein Solar Energy Facility- Portion 8 of Farm Damfontein 114
- » Wonderheuwel Solar Energy Facility- Portion 7 of Farm Damfontein 114
- » Proposed TSE Distribution Substation- Portion 8 of Farm Damfontein 114
- » Allemans Solar Energy Facility- Remainder (RE) of Farm Allemans Fontein 83
- » Carolus Poort Solar Energy Facility- Remainder (RE) of Farm 207
- » Gilmer Solar Energy Facility- Remainder (RE) of ERF 306

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as read with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of GN R543 – GN R546 (as amended), and Environmental Basic Assessment process is required to be undertaken for each project. Each project has been registered with the National DEA under the following application reference numbers: **14/12/16/3/3/1/728 (Damfontein Solar Energy Facility); 14/12/16/3/3/1/731 (Wonderheuwel Solar energy Facility); 14/12/16/3/3/1/732 (Proposed TSE Distribution Substation); 14/12/16/3/3/1/730 (Allemans Solar Energy Facility); 14/12/16/3/3/1/729 (Carolus Poort Solar Energy Facility) and 14/12/16/3/3/1/735 (Gilmer Solar Energy Facility).**

Basic Assessment Reports for the **Damfontein Solar Energy Facility** and the **Wonderheuwel Solar Energy Facility** have been prepared by Savannah Environmental and is available for public review. The **30-day public review period** for the draft Basic Assessment Reports is from **12 November to 12 December 2012**. Please find herewith copies of the draft basic assessment reports for your perusal. The reports can also be viewed on our website www.savannahSA.com. Please could you kindly submit your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard? All comments received will be submitted in the Basic Assessment Reports which will be submitted to the DEA. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or email.

In terms of the NEMA Amendment Act a **40-day review period** will be allowed for **commenting authorities / organs of state** to submit their comments on the draft Basic Assessment Reports to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Please could you kindly provide the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project. By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the Basic Assessment process.

All Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to attend a **Public Open Day** on **Wednesday 28 November 2012** at the **Hutcheson Hall** in **Noupoort** between **15:00 – 17:30**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind Regards,

MRS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

(not signed, sent via email)