

**PROPOSED MERAPI (EXCELSIOR) PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR PARK, FREE STATE PROVINCE  
 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

No.	Raised By	Comment	Respondent	Response
<b>1.</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>			
1.1	Adv. T. Moloji Acting Municipal Manager Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality  Letter: 3-10-2012	<p>The Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality hereby acknowledges receipt of your communiqué on the subject matter. While appreciating the need and desirability of the proposed development and local community benefits thereof, you are encouraged to follow due EIA processes to ensure that the environment and community health is not compromised.</p> <p>The Municipality further recommends / advises that it should be informed about the progress of this project in its tenure either through meetings and / or written reports.</p> <p>In light of the above sentiments the Municipality registers as an Interested and Affected party for the proposed activity.</p>		Comments noted, no response required.
1.3	Mr S Selepe Municipal Manager Mantsopa Local Municipality  Focus Group	When does the public review period end?	Ms G Wood Public Participation and Social Consultant Savannah Environmental	The public review period ends on 20 February 2013.

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	Meeting: 30-01-2013		Focus Group Meeting: 30-01-2013	
<b>2. ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE AREAS</b>				
2.1	Mr D.B Holmes Excelsior Farmers' Association  Public Meeting: 30-01-2013	What areas have been identified as having a high/medium ecological sensitivity?	Ms A Govender Savannah Environmental  Public Meeting: 30-01-2013	The ecologically sensitive areas comprise of ridges located north of the proposed development, as well as drainage lines on the site.
<b>3. VISUAL IMPACT</b>				
3.1	Mr J. Wessels Farm Ceylon  Public Meeting: 30-01-2013	Will the solar panels reflect sunlight off of them? Would this result in glare?	Mr Clive Rippon SolaireDirect  26-02-2013	The module glass is not a smooth glass finish and does have an anti-reflective component to reduce reflection. Effort is made in design to reduce reflection as this would then limit the generation capacity of a module. SolaireDirect modules have been approved to be used in an airport flight path which indicates that reflection is not to cause any issues.
<b>4. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS</b>				
4.1	Mr S Selepe Municipal Manager Mantsopa Local Municipality	The socio-economic impacts of the project are of key interest for the municipality as it is in the process of reviewing its Integrated Development Plan (IDP).	Ms A Govender Savannah Environmental  Focus Group	A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is undertaken as part of the EIA. This report outlines the socio-economic impacts the development would have on the municipality in general.

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	Focus Group Meeting: 30-01-2013		Meeting: 30-01-2013	
<b>5.</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>			
5.1	Ms L Van Rensburg Acting: DDG: Environmental Affairs The Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA)  Letter: 11-10-2012	The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA) has reviewed the Draft EIA Report for the above mentioned project. Resulting from the review of the abovementioned report the Department (DETEA) is satisfied with the description of environmental impacts and management measures developed to mitigate the negative impacts.  The Department is therefore in support of the project and recommends the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The decommissioning plan must be drafted highlighting where and how the material used will be disposed of and how the disturbed land will be rehabilitated.</li> <li>• The Environmental Management Committee of DETEA also requests clarity on whether the Department of Agriculture was contacted with regard to the land use. This is because the proposed development is on agricultural land. The Department would like to know if there is any statistics on the amount of land that will be available in future for agricultural purposes.</li> </ul>	Sheila Muniongo  Savannah Environmental  Letter: 13 February 2013	In response to the recommendations raised regarding the proposed Merapi Solar Energy Facility near Excelsior [DEA Reference Numbers: 14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (PHASE 1), 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (PHASE 2), 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (PHASE 3) AND 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (PHASE 4)]. the following has reference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Decommissioning Plan</li> </ol> A decommissioning plan is outlined in Chapter 9 of the Environmental Management Programme (EMP), attached as Appendix K (Phase 1), Appendix L (Phase 2), Appendix M (Phase 3) and Appendix N (Phase 4) of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. The decommissioning plan highlights where and how the material used will be disposed of. It further outlines the activities that would need to be undertaken in order to rehabilitate the disturbed land.

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				<p>2. Consultation with the Department of Agriculture</p> <p>As part of the public participation component of the EIA process, a focus group meeting was held with the Department of Agriculture in Botshabelo on 31 January 2013.</p> <p>A soils and agricultural survey of the site was undertaken as part of the EIA. It was concluded that the proposed Merapi PV facility site will be located on generally LOW potential agricultural land. In addition, the layout of the proposed PV facility has been strategically planned to minimise loss of potential agricultural land.</p> <p>From an agricultural perspective, this development will not impact on the agricultural potential of the site. Areas currently used for agricultural purposes will remain available for this land use.</p> <p>Note: Comment from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries was received on 29-01-2013. Please refer to Item 5.2 below.</p>

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5.2	Ms MC Marubini Delegate of the Minister: Land Use and Soil Management Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  Letter: 29-01-2013	The Department does not support the proposed solar park. The proposed development will have negative impact on the current and surrounding activities. The proposed development is also not compatible with the activities in the area.  Please note that this comment does not exempt any person from any provision of any other law, and does not purport to interfere with the rights of any person who may have interest in the agricultural land.	Ms G Wood  Savannah Environmental  Letter: 27-02-2013	A soils and agricultural survey of the site was undertaken as part of the EIA. It was concluded that the proposed Merapi PV facility site will be located on generally LOW potential agricultural land. In addition, the layout of the proposed PV facility has been strategically planned to minimise loss of potential agricultural land.  From an agricultural perspective, this development will not impact on the agricultural potential of the site. Areas currently used for agricultural purposes will remain available for this land use.
5.3	Mr D.B Holmes Excelsior Farmers' Association  Public Meeting: 30-01-2013	When will construction commence and when will the plant start producing electricity?	Ms A Govender Savannah Environmental  Public Meeting: 30-01-2013	Construction is likely to commence towards the last quarter of 2014 if the developer is awarded preferred bidder status by the Department of Energy (DoE). Electricity generation is due to commence 18 months thereafter.
5.4	Mr J Wessels  Public Meeting: 30-01-2013	How high are the solar panels from the ground? Will animals be permitted to graze around the solar panels?	Mr C Rippon SolaireDirect  26-02-2013	The highest point of the module support structure is less than 3 m high. Animals will not be allowed to graze around the park as this has security implications for the Solar Park. The facility will be fenced, guarded and locked.
5.5	Mr S Selepe Municipal Manager	When would construction commence?	Mr C Rippon SolaireDirect	Construction is due to commence towards the last quarter of 2014 if the developer is

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	Mantsopa Local Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 30-01-2013		26-02-2013	awarded preferred bidder status by the DoE.

**PROPOSED MERAPI (EXCELSIOR) PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR PARK, FREE STATE PROVINCE  
 SCOPING PHASE  
 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

No.	Raised By	Comment	Respondent	Response
<b>1.</b>	<b>IMPACTS ON AIR NAVIGATION SERVICES</b>			
1.1	Koos Pretorius Acting Manager Air Navigation Services South African Civil Aviation Authority  Letter 3-07-2012	Approved: Proposed Merapi Solar Energy PV Facility near Excelsior in the Free State Province  After evaluating the site position and reviewing the information received on 3 July 2012, the CAA has no objection to the proposed Energy Facility Development with a maximum height restriction of 5.0m above ground level. The OHEPTL is restricted to 24m AGL.  Note that this letter of non-objection does not constitute a replacement or substitution for other approvals which may be required for this proposed project.		Comment noted, no response required.
<b>2.</b>	<b>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS</b>			
2.1	HJ Buys Director: Land Use and Soil Management Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	This serves as a notice of receipt and confirms that your application has been captured in our electronic AgriLand tracking and management system. It is strongly recommended that you use the on-line AgriLand application facility in future.  Detail of your application captured:		Comment noted, no response required.

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	Letter 10-07-2012	Type: Merapi Solar Park Your reference number: 14/12/16/3/3/2/361-364 Property Description: Farms 311, 566, 1623, 374, 1547 Date: 28 June 2012  Please use the following reference numbers in all enquiries:  AgriLand reference number: 2012_07_0077		
2.2	Mr G Motheo Department of Water Affairs – Free State Regional Office  Email: 26-06-2012	Please submit a hard copy of the attached documents and note the Department will provide comments within 40 days from the day the hard copies are received by the Department.		Comment noted, no response required. A hard copy of the report was submitted as requested.
2.3	Mr T Motshoikhu Community Services Mantsapo Local Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	I would recommend that a detailed presentation on the project be made to the Municipal Manager and the senior management team in the first week of October. The Mayor and ward councillors would be invited to the presentation.	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	Comment noted. Solaire Direct was presented the project at the Mantsopa Local Municipality Council Meeting in Ladybrand on 26 February 2013.



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2.4	Mr Van Rensburg Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	Have you received comment from the Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport on the Draft Scoping Report?	Mr G Wood Public Participation and Social Consultant Savannah Environmental  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	Comments were received from Mr WA Naudé of the Land Transport Planning Directorate.
<b>3. IMPACTS ON HERITAGE RESOURCES</b>				
3.1	Mr A Salomon Heritage Officer: Archaeology  South African Heritage Resources Agency  Letter: 17-08-2012	<i>SAHRA REF: 9/2/313/0003</i> Thank you for your Background Information Document regarding the above development.  In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be		Comment noted. A Heritage Impact Assessment was undertaken for the project.

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		<p>destroyed, must be done as required.</p> <p>The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist (see web site for the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists <a href="http://www.asapa.org.za">www.asapa.org.za</a>) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large development takes place.</p> <p>The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.</p> <p>When bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources – or at least a letter of exemption from a</p>		

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		<p>Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary.</p> <p>If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is no necessity for any further assessment.</p> <p>Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.</p>		
<b>4.</b>	<b>IMPACTS ON ESKOM INFRASTRUCTURE</b>			
4.1	Mr J Geeringh Snr Env Advisor GC Land Development ESKOM  Email: 20-08-2012	The land where the proposed PV solar facility will be constructed surrounds the Eskom Merapi MTS substation. Eskom is planning future lines into the substation and has a vacant servitude to the North of the substation. Eskom is also planning to upgrade the Merapi substation in future to 400kV. It is thus imperative that the layout of the Solar PV plant be planned in such a way as not to encroach too close to the substation and the existing power	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Email 21-08-2012	We are aware of the servitude and we have calculated a buffer of approximately 500m from the proposed ESKOM line.

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		<p>lines and servitudes linking the Merapi substation to the National Grid.</p> <p>Major new transmission lines will enter the substation from the north in future, as well as possible lines toward the east towards Lesotho. The 400kV extension of the substation will also most probably be towards the east. When your layout of the PV plant is more detailed at the draft EIAR stage, Eskom will again look at the plans and comment.</p>		
<b>5.</b>	<b>IMPACTS ON ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE AND ROAD SAFETY</b>			
5.1	<p>Mr WA Naudé                      Head of                      Department                      Department of                      Police, Roads and                      Transport: Free                      State Province</p> <p>Letter:                      28-08-2012</p>	<p>1. Your letter dated 14 August 2012 pertaining to the aforementioned application refers.</p> <p>2. This Department supports the above-mentioned solar energy facility subject to the following conditions:</p> <p>2.1 A building line is imposed in terms of the provisions of sections 9 and 9A of the Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act, 1940 (Act no. 1 of 1940). No structures, including power lines, must therefore be established within a distance of –</p> <p>2.1.1 95,0 metres measured for the centre line of routes R709 (primary road P37/1) and</p>	<p>Ms G Wood                       Savannah                      Environmental</p>	<p>Comments noted, no response required. The letter and waybill application form was sent to Mr Reggie Niemand of Solaire Direct on 14-08-2013. Solaire Direct will liaise with the Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport on these matters.</p>

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		<p>R703 (secondary road S39).</p> <p>2.1.2 A radius of R500m around the intersection of route R709 (primary road P37/1) with route R703 (secondary road S39).</p> <p>2.2 This Department is however prepared to consider the relaxation of the building line on receipt of a written application, accompanied by a terrain layout drawing, in this regard. Consideration for the relaxation of the building line will be given as follows:</p> <p>2.2.1 East of primary road P37/1: Welgegund 1629: 25,0m from the road reserve boundary.</p> <p>2.2.2 North of secondary road S39: Moedersgift 566; 25,0m from the road reserve boundary.</p> <p>2.2.3 South of secondary road S39: No relaxation of the building line is necessary because infrastructure is further than 95,0m from secondary road S39.</p> <p>2.2.4 The 500m radius building restriction referred to in paragraph 2.1.2 will not apply and is replaced with the above-mentioned paragraphs 2.2.2 and 2.2.3</p> <p>2.3 No access to any of the sites for the</p>		

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		<p>proposed Merapi Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Facility will be allowed from route R709 (primary road P37/1)</p> <p>2.4 Access to the site on Welgegund 1629 east of route R709 (primary road P37/1) must be obtained from tertiary road T3275 at a distance not less than 75,0m from the intersection within route R709 (primary road P37/1).</p> <p>2.5 Access to the sites on Welgegund 1629 and Moedersgift 566 west of route R709 (primary road P37/1) must be obtained from secondary road S39 (route R703) at a distance not less than 150m from the intersection of the route R709 (primary road P37/2) with secondary road S39 (route R703).</p> <p>2.6 The installation of utility services (power cables/lines) will not be allowed within the road reserves of provincial roads except where such services cross provincial roads. The crossing of provincial roads is subjected to the submission of an application and this department's approval thereof. An application form is attached hereto.</p>		

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		<p>2.7 It will also be necessary to apply for the proposed accesses to the provincial roads as described in the above-mentioned paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5.</p> <p>2.8 No development on any site within the building restriction area of the provincial roads concerned may take place prior to this Department's written approval for the relaxation of the building line.</p> <p>2.9 Photovoltaic cells must also be installed in such a manner that they do not reflect in the eyes of passing motorists.</p> <p>3 It will be appreciated if you could register this Department as an affected party and forward all future correspondence pertaining to your application for the attention of:                      Mr WA Naudé                      Directorate Land Transport Infrastructure Planning and Client Services                      Department of Police, Roads and Transport                      PO Box 119                      Bloemfontein                      9300</p>		

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		4 Any enquiries pertaining to the contents of this letter can be addressed to this Department's Mr WA Naudé at telephone no. 051-409-8584 or email <a href="mailto:naudew@freetrans.gov.za">naudew@freetrans.gov.za</a>		
5.2	Mr Van Rensberg Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	What measures would be put in place to prevent the solar panels from reflecting in motorists' eyes?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	It is likely that the solar farm would be constructed 100m or more away from the road. Trees would be planted to reduce any glare from the solar panels.
<b>6.</b>	<b>SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS</b>			
6.1	Mr T Motshoikhu Community Services Mantsapo Local Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	How would the project benefit the Mantsapo Local Municipality?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	Solaire Direct will initiate a community trust with a percentage of the income generated from the solar park. This funding will be used for community upliftment programmes which will fall in line with the Municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP).
6.2	Mr T Motshoikhu Community Services Mantsapo Local	There are very few economic activities taking place in Excelsior. The community is poverty stricken and the Municipality relies heavily on the farming activities in that area. It would be worthwhile to	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect	The project has a large socio-economic development component to it. Part of the EIA requires that a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is undertaken. The SIA



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	Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	determine how the project can improve the socio-economic circumstances of that community.	Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	is submitted to the DEA and the Department of Energy as part of the EIA. It is important to engage with the IDP and LED managers to determine the way forward in identifying social upliftment programmes that can be implemented in the community.
6.3	Mr T Motshoikhu Community Services Mantsapo Local Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	Will the project provide employment opportunities to the local community?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	Yes local community members will be trained and employed on the project. 50 – 60 permanent jobs will be created over a 20 year period. 250 temporary jobs will be created over the construction period of 18 – 24 months.
6.4	Mr A Visagie Principal Excelsior Skool  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	How would the project impact the community? Would the project create employment opportunities?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	There is large socio-economic development component to the project. A percentage of the income generated from the project will be utilised to establish a community trust that would oversee the implementation of social upliftment programmes in the community. 50 – 60 permanent jobs will be created over a 20 year period. 250 temporary jobs will be created over the construction period of 18 – 24 months.
6.5	Mr JTD Wessels Farm Owner	Where will non-local employees live during the construction of the project?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer	These employees will not live on the farms where development will take place. They

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	Pubic Meeting 5-09-2012		SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	will only be permitted on the farms during working hours.  Farm workers will not be employed on the project. The wages of the construction workers will be about the same as what the farm workers receive.
<b>7. IMPACTS ON WATER RESOURCES</b>				
7.1	Mr BN Bele Deputy Director – Drinking Water and Waste Water Management  Letter: 10-09-2012	Department of Water Affairs Reference No: 16/2/7/C401/D1 The above mentioned development application reference numbers 14/12/16/3/3/2/361 (Phase 1); 14/12/16/3/3/2/362 (Phase 2); 14/12/16/3/3/2/363 (Phase 3); 14/12/16/3/3/2/364 (Phase 4) refers:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Water Affairs: Free State is at this stage unable to comment meaningfully until such time that a detailed report with specialist studies such as a Freshwater Study has been completed and submitted to the Department.</li> <li>• The layout plan on your report indicates that the development will impact on the Lengana water resource.</li> <li>• The report also indicates that there could be wetland/s available at the proposed development area.</li> <li>• Regarding the two points mentioned above, your attention is drawn to the Department's</li> </ul>	Ms G Wood  Savannah Environmental	Savannah Environmental submitted the layout map showing the 1:100 flood line as well as the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report in January 2013.

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		<p>Regulation which state that any development within 1:100 year floodline, within the riparian habitat or within 500m from the boundary of any wetland constitutes a Water Use License in terms of section 21 (c) and (i) of National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) ad authorization will be required before any development may commence.</p> <p>To assist the Department to make a meaningful decision, kindly submit a layout map showing 1:100 year flood line and the report on wetland assessments.</p>		
<b>8.</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>			
8.1	Mr T Motshoikhu Community Services Mantsapo Local Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	Why is this project proposed to be located in the Mantsapo Local Municipality?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	The site is best suited for the project since it is located close to the Merapi substation which is owned by Eskom. The substation has capacity of 150MW which we can generate power into. In addition, the owners of the five privately owned farms located near to the substation have agreed to make land available for the project.
8.2	Mr T Motshoikhu Community Services Mantsapo Local	The proposed project is not in the Municipality's IDP. A review of the IPD will commence in October 2012 and it is imperative that the IDP Manager be informed of the project. The project must be	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect	Comment noted. Solaire Direct will engage the IDP Manager of the Mantsopa Local Municipality throughout the process.

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	Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	presented to the community during the IDP review.	Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	
8.3	Mr T Motshoikhu Community Services Mantsapo Local Municipality  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	Is the identified site environmentally suitable?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Focus Group Meeting: 5-09-2012	There are a few sensitive areas to take cognizance of within the site but these can be avoided with careful planning of the facility.
8.4	Mr JTD Wessels Farm Owner  Pubic Meeting 5-09-2012	How will the power generated by the solar panels be evacuated to the substation?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	The transmission cables would be laid underground if the solar park is located within 500m of the substation. Overhead transmission cables will be installed if the solar park is located further away from the substation.
8.5	Mr JTD Wessels Farm Owner  Pubic Meeting 5-09-2012	Will the contractors require water or electricity when constructing the solar park? How much water will be required?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	Water will be required during the construction phase. If the farmer cannot provide water then water would be sourced from the water affairs board. 2000 cubic meters per annum of water would be required for a 75MW facility over a 20 year period.

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8.6	Mr JTD Wessels Farm Owner  Pubic Meeting 5-09-2012	How often will the solar panels need to be washed?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	The solar panels will be washed twice a year at the most.
8.7	Mr JTD Wessels Farm Owner  Pubic Meeting 5-09-2012	Who will be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the solar panels?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	The contract for cleaning the solar panels will be put out on tender. However, 76% of employment opportunities have to be provided to the local community.
8.8	Mr JTD Wessels Farm Owner  Pubic Meeting 5-09-2012	What are the timeframes of the EIA process?	Sheila Muniongo Environmental Assessment Practitioner Savannah Environmental  and  Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	The specialists will commence with their studies in October 2012. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared and put out for public review for 30-days. The Environmental Assessment Report will be finalised and submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in the first week of December 2012. The DEA have 60 days to review the report and provide their final decision.  Solaire Direct will submit the bid to the Department of Energy (DoE) once all the relevant authorisations have been received. The DoE have 4 months to make a decision. It is anticipated that construction would

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				commence in early 2014 if the Bid is successful.
8.9	Mr JTD Wessels Farm Owner  Public Meeting 5-09-2012	Would the solar panels affect the weather in any way?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	The solar panels would not have any effect on the weather.
8.10	Mr J Harmse Farm Owner  Public Meeting 5-09-2012	What will happen with the solar park after its 20 year operation phase has lapsed?	Mr R Niemand Project Developer SolaireDirect  Public Meeting: 5-09-2012	Depending on the DoE's decision, the solar park can be upgraded and the agreements with the landowners would be renewed for another 20 years. If it is not viable to upgrade the solar park it would be decommissioned and the land would be rehabilitated.