

## SANNASPOS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

#### BOTSHABELO, FREE STATE

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

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Sunninghill, 2157

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#### **PUBLIC MEETING**

NOTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2013

VENUE
THE CHURCH, SECTION F, BOTSHABELO,
FREE STATE

**Notes for the Record prepared by:** 

**Savannah Environmental** 

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

## PUBLIC MEETING: SANNASPOS SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

**Venue:** The Small Church, Section F, Botshabelo, Free State

**Date:** 31 January 2013

**Time:** 14h00

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Cllr M. Eti of Ward 27 of the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality welcomed all present and thanked everyone for availing themselves for the meeting. She said that the purpose of the meeting was to present the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Sannaspos Solar Energy Facility project to the Ward 27 community.

Cllr Eti noted that Solaire Direct is the developer of the project and that Savannah Environmental had been appointed to undertake the EIA for the project. She said that Savannah Environmental would present the background to the project as well as the draft findings of the EIA at the meeting.

#### **MEETING ATTENDEES**

Name	Organisation & Position
Dikeledi Makhele	Community Member
Nthabiseng Gantsho	Community Member
Mpho Vivian	Community Member
Refiloe Khalema	Community Member
Kelebogile Seakhwa	Community Member
Rosalina Lechesa	Community Member
MB Mowtle	Community Member
Tlali Rapelang	Community Member
Neo Chabang	Community Member
Raiejella Kedibone	Community Member
Cecilia Senne	Community Member
Aletta Letebo	Community Member
Xoliswa Mtshakazane	Community Member
Moleboneng Rasutha	Community Member
Mpolokeng Ramokoatsi	Community Member
Dayimane Mongezi	Community Member
Poo Butinyana	Community Member
Molerane Matshidiso	Community Member

Name	Organisation & Position
DS Ramatsoele	Community Member
Tumelo Manesa	Community Member
Jemina Eti	Community Member
Pulleng Mokqutla	Community Member
Tshepo Lebajoa	Community Member
Mathapelo Schaikwyk	Community Member
Mpho Joseph Dlanianye	Community Member
Emah Mbuli	Community Member
Alicia Govender	Savannah Environmental – Environmental
	Assessment Practitioner (EAP)
Gabriele Wood	Savannah Environmental – Public Participation and
	Social Consultant
Andries Tshikoho	Ward 27
Aletta Meho	Ward 27
Popie Dyana	Ward 27
Julia Rasutha	Ward 27
Thato Paul Pitso	Ward 27
Cllr Mama Eti	Ward 27 - Ward Councillor
Bokluku Moleboleng	Ward 27 – Youth Leader

#### **APOLOGIES**

None

## BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Alicia Govender presented the background to the project and the findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The presentation is attached hereto.

#### **DISCUSSION SESSION**

Question / Comment	Response
Will the solar energy facility reduce the	AG: The electricity price will not be reduced.
electricity price?	The electricity will be sold to Eskom directly.
What can the community do to show	GW: The community can show support for
support for the project.	the project by submitting written comment
	to Savannah Environmental during the public

Question / Comment	Response
	review period. The community can request
	the Ward Councilor to send a letter,
	expressing support for the project to
	Savannah Environmental on their behalf.
Will the solar energy facility work in winter	AG: The solar energy facility will be able to
or it is overcast?	generate electricity in overcast and cold
	conditions. The technology uses energy from
	the sun, in the form of ultra-violet (UV) rays,
	which are absorbed by the photovoltaic
	panels, to create electricity. UV-rays are
	always present in daylight.
When will the community be called to	GW: The project is still in its planning stages
register for work?	and a number of permits and authorizations
	need to be obtained before the project can
	be developed. The community will be
	contacted once the developer has approval to
	develop the project. The registration of
	community members for work will be
	undertaken through the Mangaung Metro
	Municipality and the Ward 27 Councilor.

#### **WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE**

Cllr Eti thanked everyone for their inputs and for attending the meeting. The meeting was closed at 15:00.

	SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD	INTAL (P	TY) LTD		ATTENDANCE REGISTER
Project	Sannaspos Solar Energy Facility	^		Meefing	Public Meeting
Date	31 January 2013	Time	10000	Venue	The Church, Section F, Botshabelo, Free State

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# SANNASPOS (PHASE 1) PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY NEAR BLOEMFONTEIN

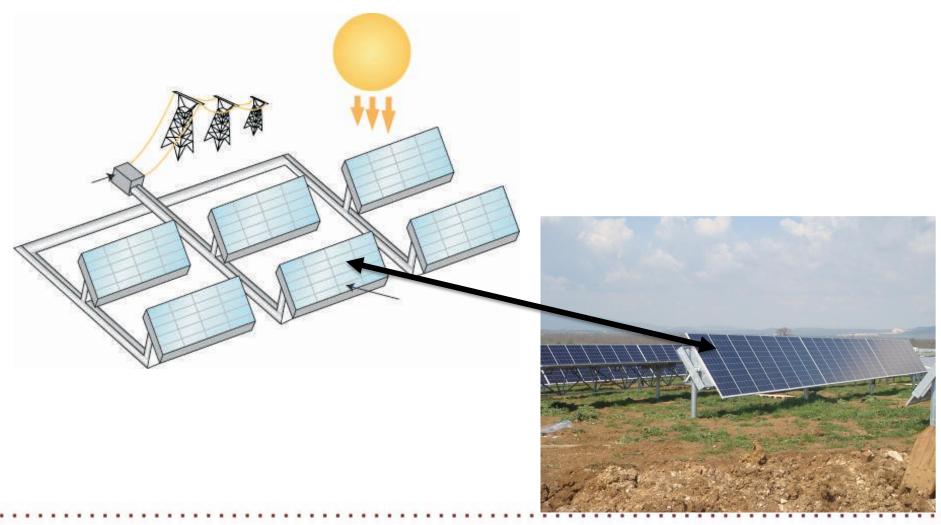


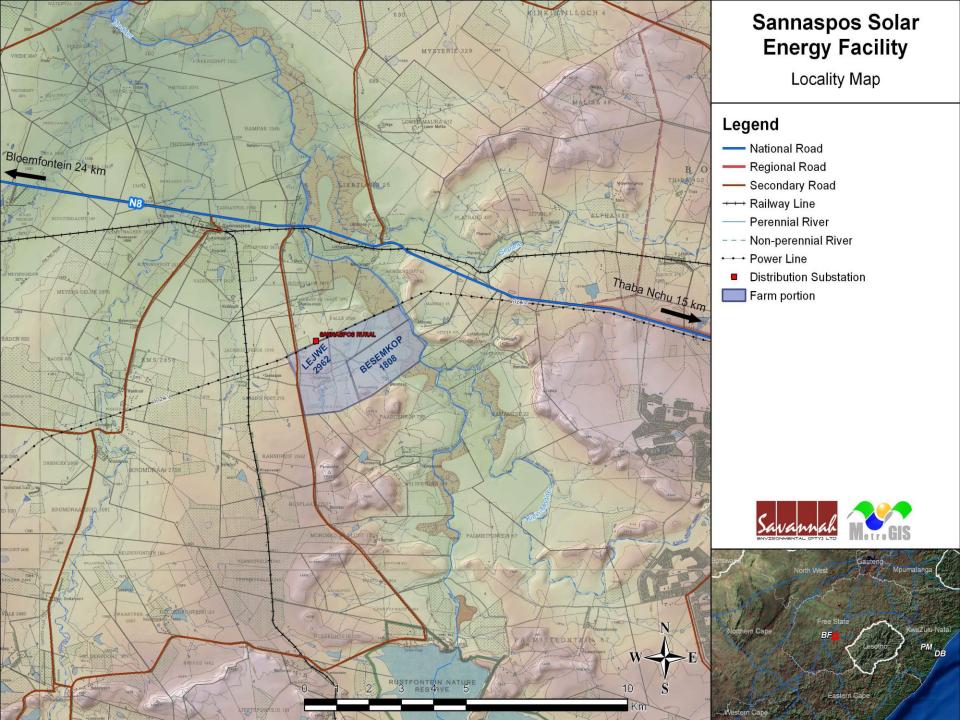
solairedirect

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Applicant: SolaireDirect Southern Africa
- SANNASOPOS-PHASE1 Solar Energy Facility
- DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/360
- 75MW Project near Bloemfontein
- Technology: Photovoltaic (PV) Panels
- EIA required

## WHAT IS A PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITY?





## PROJECT COMPONENTS

- PV panels generating capacity of up to 75MW
- An on-site substation and 132kV overhead power line to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- Cabling between the project components, to be lain underground where practical
- Internal access roads and fencing
- Workshop area for maintenance, storage, and offices

## **LEGAL CONTEXT**

- National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998)
  - Overarching environmental legislation in South Africa
  - Identifies and regulates activities which may have a detrimental impact on the environment
  - Specifies the EIA process
  - Applicant requires authorisation from National DEA (in consultation with Provincial FS DETEA)
  - Independent environmental studies in accordance with the EIA Regulations of June 2010

## OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

#### PHASE 1

Notification Process

#### PHASE 2

**Scoping Process** 

#### PHASE 3

Environmental Impact Assessment

#### PHASE 4

Decisionmaking

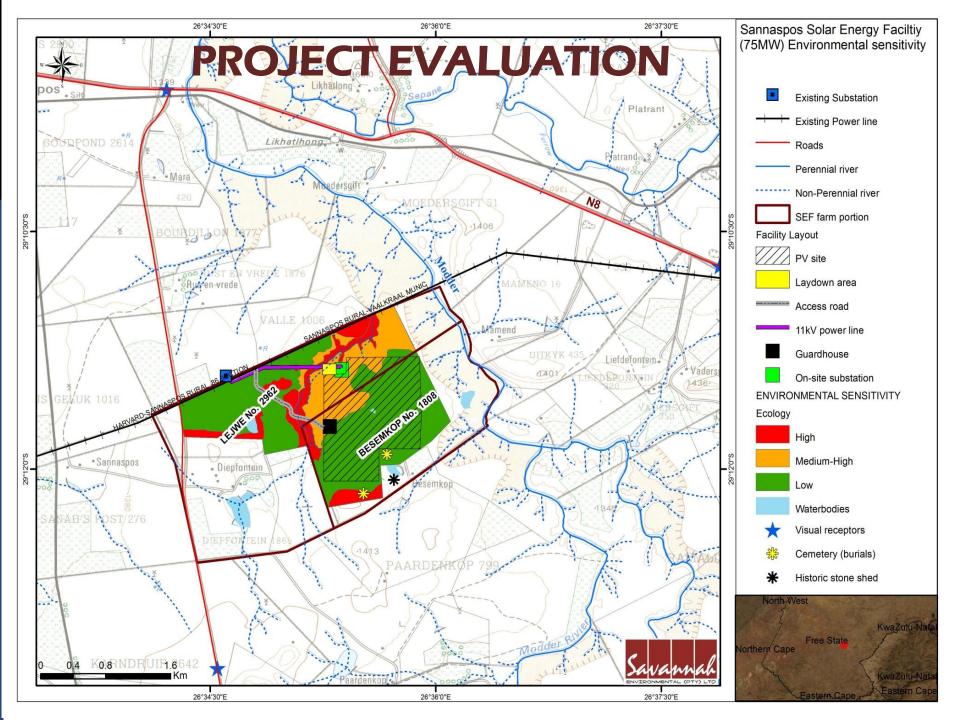
- Application form & reference number
- Advertise in printed media
- Notification to identified I&APs, stakeholders, & Organs of State

- Consultation with stakeholders & I&APs
- Focus group meetings and public meeting
- Distribution of BID
- Draft Scoping Report review period

- On-going public consultation
- Focus group meetings and public meeting
- Draft EIA Report & Draft EMP review period
- Final EIA Report submitted to DEA for review & decision-making
- Stakeholder & I&AP comments received during process are evaluated
- Appeals process

## APPROACH TO THE EIA PROCESS

- Identification & assessment of issues:
  - Impacts on biodiversity
  - Impacts on soils & agricultural potential
  - Impacts on heritage resources
  - Impacts on visual aesthetics
  - Impacts on the social environment
- Sensitive areas/ features identified through specialist studies & consultation
- Final design of facility to be informed by sensitive areas identified through the EIA Assessment process



#### POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

ISSUE	IMPACT WITHOUT MITIGATION	IMPACT WITH MITIGATION
Impacts on biodiversity	High	Medium
Impacts on visual aesthetics	Medium	Low
Impacts on heritage resources	Low	Low
Impacts on soils & agricultural potential	Medium	Low
Impacts on the social environment	Medium	Low

## CONCLUSIONS

- No environmental fatal flaws identified
- Sites are largely favourable from an ecological perspective areas of high sensitivity have been avoided
- Soil degradation is of low significance
- Agricultural potential is low
- Visual impact low due low numbers of visual receptors in the study area and another adjacent proposed facility
- Heritage significance is negligible with mitigation measures in place
- Positive social impact employment opportunities, skills development, & capacity building within the local communities

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Projects should be authorised by DEA
- Environmental Management Programmes (EMP) to be implemented to minimise impacts
- Disturbed areas should be rehabilitated as soon as possible after construction
- Identify & manage areas of high erosion potential
- Declared alien plants must be identified and managed
- Social beneficiation programme to be undertaken

#### **WAY FORWARD**

- Public Review period for Draft Environmental Assessment Reports until 15 February 2013
- Report available at:
  - Botchabelo Public Library
  - www.savannahsa.com
- Final Reports to be submitted to DEA for review & acceptance
- Registered I&APs to be notified of decision on projects

## WHO TO CONTACT

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