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Email: egrobler@ages-group.com
03 December 2013

Dear Engela,

RE: DEVELOPMENT RHODES 1 AND RHODES 2 SOLAR FACILITIES ON THE FARM RHODES NO. 269

This letter is in response to your email request to provide an assessment on the potential development of Rhodes 1 and 2 photo-voltaic electricity generation facilities and the risk they may pose on the Square Kilometre Array Project.

A high level risk assessment has been conducted at the South African SKA Project Office to determine the potential impact of such facilities on the Square Kilometre Array. This letter serves to confirm the outcomes of the risk assessment, and proposals for any future investigations associated with these facilities.

- i. The location of the proposed facilities was provided in the background information document that that was compiled and sent out by Ages (Pty). The nearest SKA station is Rem-Opt-14 and it is located approximately 90km away from the proposed PV installations;
- ii. Based on distances to the nearest SKA stations, and the information currently available on the detailed design of the PV installation, these facilities poses a low risk of detrimental impact on the SKA;
- iii. Any transmitters that are to be established, or have been established, at the site for the purposes of voice and data communication will be required to comply with the relevant AGA regulations concerning the restriction of use of the radio frequency spectrum that applies in the area concerned;
- iv. As a result of the low risk associated with these PV facilities, no mitigation measures would be required at this stage. However, the South African SKA Project Office would like to be kept informed of progress with these projects, and reserves the right to further risk assessments at a later stage.



SKA SOUTH AFRICA
SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY

This technical advice is provided by the South African SKA Project Office on the basis of the protection requirements of the SKA in South Africa, and does not constitute legal approval of the renewable energy projects in terms of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, the Management Authority, and its regulations or declarations.

Regards,

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