

APPENDIX C7
Minutes of Meetings

BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

AGGENEYS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS NEAR AGGENEYS, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

**NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING: LANDOWNERS
HELD ON THURSDAY, 16 MAY 2019 at 12h00
VENUE: REP-EN-ROER, AGGENEYS**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Please note that these minutes are not verbatim. Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the address below

AGGENEYS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC AND GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS NEAR AGGENEYS, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Rep-en-Roer, Aggeneys

Date: Thursday, 16 May 2019

Time: 12h00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter, Public Participation Practitioner, Savannah Environmental, thanked the attendees for making time available for the Focus Group Meeting. She introduced herself and her role in the project and requested all present to introduce themselves.

The meeting was arranged to take place at the Old Main Office Boardroom, Vedanta Resources (Pty) Ltd, 1 Penge Road, Aggeneys, but due to unforeseen circumstances, the meeting took place at Rep-en-Roer, Aggeneys.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete	Environmental Officer	Black Mountain Mining (Pty) Ltd
Mr Gerhard Visser	Landowner	Farm Kykgat
Mr. Mike Mangnall	ABO Wind Renewable Energies	Project Manager
Mr. Peter Smith	Atlantic Renewable Energy Projects	Project Manager
Mrs. Thalita Botha	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Ms. Nicolene Venter	Public Participation Practitioner	

APOLOGIES

Mr. Tertius Visser, Landowner: Kykgat

Mr. Pieter Venter, Environmental Manager: Vedanta Resources (Black Mountain Mining (Pty) Ltd

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Nicolene informed the attendees that the purpose of the meeting was to:

- present the Basic Assessment and public participation processes undertaken for the proposed projects;
- present a summary of the key environmental findings as documented in the Basic Assessment Reports; and
- record comments raised at the meeting and include it in the Comments and Responses Reports (C&RR) which forms part of the appendices of the final Basic Assessment Reports.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Thalita Botha informed the attendees that the development of the Aggeneys 1 and Aggeneys 2 solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities and the grid connection infrastructures for the Aggeneys 1 and Aggeneys 2 solar PV facilities are proposed approximately 11km south-east of Aggeneys within the Khâi-Ma Local Municipality and the greater Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

Each of the two solar PV projects will have a contracted capacity of up to 100MW and will make use of solar PV technology for the generation of electricity. Each project will comprise the following key infrastructure and components:

- » Arrays of PV solar panels (up to approximately 3.5m in height, once installed).
- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » On-site inverters to convert the power from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC)
- » A 132kV or 220kV on-site substation.
- » Temporary laydown area up to 1ha in extent, for the storage of materials during the construction.
- » Internal access roads of up to 5m in width.
- » Auxiliary buildings (offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage).
- » Each of the solar PV facilities will connect to the Aggeneys Main Transmission Substation (MTS) via an overhead power line with a contracted capacity of up to 220kV.

In terms of alternatives, two (2) on-site substation alternative areas are being proposed which include:

- » On-site substation Alternative 1 (preferred):
Located on the south-eastern and south-western corners of the Aggeneys 1 and 2 project sites.
- » On-site substation Alternative 2:
Located within the northern portion of the two (2) project sites and along the eastern and western boundaries of their respective development footprints.

In terms of the Grid Connection Projects, two (2) alternative corridors have been identified for each of the solar PV projects which include:

- » Alternative 1 : 14km long and 1km wide in extent (technically preferred); and
- » Alternative 2: 17km long and 1km wide in extent

She stated that the solar PV facilities are intended to form part of the Department of Energy's (DoE's) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated by the projects will be sold to Eskom and will feed into the national electricity grid. The development of the projects will assist with the achievement of the electricity goals as set out in the Integrated Resources Plan for electricity (IRP) 2010 – 2030 by diversifying South Africa's electricity mix, and positively contributing towards socio-economic, and environmentally sustainable growth.

OVERVIEW OF BA PROCESSES

Thalita Botha informed the attendees that the projects are located within Zone 8 of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ) (also known as the Springbok REDZ), and within the Northern Transmission Corridor. The procedure to be followed in applying for environmental authorisation for a large-scale project in a REDZ was formally gazetted on 16 February 2018 (in GN113 and GN114). As Aggeney 1 and Aggeney 2 are located within one of the eight REDZ areas, the projects are subject to a Basic Assessment and not a full EIA process, as well as a shortened timeframe of 57 days for the processing of an Application for Environmental Authorisation.

The Basic Assessment Reports (BARs) are currently available for the Municipality's, and the public's, review and comment. The BARs review and comment period are as follows:

- » Aggeney 1 & 2 Review Period: 24 April – 27 May 2019
- » Grid Connection 1 & 2 Review Period: 02 May – 03 June 2019

After incorporating and responding to the comments received during the review periods, the BARs will be updated, and the final BARs will be submitted to the DEA for decision-making.

SUMMARY OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS AS DOCUMENTED IN THE BARs

The environmental studies associated with these proposed projects are:

- Ecology
- Avifauna
- Soils
- Visual
- Social
- Heritage
- Paleontology
- Traffic
- Freshwater

Thalita Botha informed the attendees that the outcomes of the BA for the proposed projects included:

- number of ground-truthed impacts and benefits from a social and biophysical perspective;
- no fatal flaws associated with the developments were identified;
- all impacts associated with the layouts can be mitigated to acceptable levels; and
- all four (4) projects (PVs and grid connections) were found to be environmentally acceptable.

The summary of the key environmental findings for each of the specialist studies undertaken can be found in the presentation attached to these meeting notes (**Appendix A**).

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired whether the project team is aware of the upgrade of the existing 400kV transmission power line traversing the affected property.	Mike Mangnall replied that they have been made aware of the proposed upgrade, but information regarding the status of the project is not yet known.
Mr. Gerhard Visser informed the project team that from a landowner's perspective, Corridor Alternative 1 would be preferred as the impacts would be less as the area is already impacted by the existing 400kV power line and all the impacts would be concentrated in one area.	Thalita Botha acknowledged the recommendation regarding Corridor Alternative 1.
Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired whether the project team is aware of the proposed power line corridor over his property (Farm Kykgat) from Poortjie, linking Juwi's development to the east, into Aggeneys MTS.	Nicolene Venter replied that during the consultation with the landowner, it was not mentioned that there is a possible servitude linked to another project over his property. She acknowledged the information regarding the possible corridor as provided by Mr. Visser and stated that it would be investigated further.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired whether the proposed power line will be owned by ABO.	Thalita Botha replied that should they be a preferred bidder, that the project company will construct the power line and then transfer it to Eskom for operations and maintenance.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired who conducted the Heritage Studies.	Thalita Botha replied that the studies were conducted by Dr Jayson Orton from ASHA Consulting.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete asked, in terms of social impacts, where will the construction workers be housed.	Thalita Botha responded that it is the plan for the construction workers will be transported by bus from either Pofadder or Aggeneys to and from the development sites and that no workers will be housed on site.
Mr. Gerhard Visser asked whether external contractors will be brought in to do the construction of the solar PV facilities.	Mike Mangnall responded that, should they receive preferred Bidder status, the project would be put out on tender and external contractors would be appointed.
Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired whether any objections against the project, to date, were received.	Nicolene Venter replied that no objections were received to date.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete informed the project team of Black Mountain Mine's nature reserve which is located to the south of the N14 and	Thalita Botha thanked Ms. Cloete for the information provided regarding their nature reserve and the access conditions.

<p>said that should access be required during the construction phase, that access needs to be arranged and secured through their Office. She also draws the team's attention to the fact that there are conditions associated with access to the nature reserve that always needs to be adhered to. These conditions are also to prevent any injuries to the construction workers.</p>	
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired where the water for construction purposes will be sourced from.</p>	<p>Thalita Botha replied that water is likely to be sourced from the local municipality.</p>
<p>Mr. Gerhard Visser informed the project team that the water level in the area is very low and the sinking of a borehole is not recommended.</p>	<p>Peter Smith responded that no boreholes will be established on the site.</p>
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete informed the project team of the Sedibeng Water pipeline network and advised ABO to build their own water pipeline connection, to t-off from Sedibeng Water, to their sites.</p>	<p>Mike Mangnall thanked Ms Cloete for the information and knowledge shared.</p>
<p>Mr. Gerhard Visser reiterated that no extraction from groundwater can be done as there is already a crisis with water extraction. The volume of water being extracted by the mine is already hampering farming in the area.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked Mr. Visser for the information shared and requested that the team take note of the water resource conditions and status in the area.</p>
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired whether a Traffic Impact Study was conducted as the Loop 10 road carries heavy traffic.</p>	<p>Thalita Botha responded that a Traffic Impact Assessment was conducted and that the Report is appended to the BAR as Appendix I.</p>
<p>Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired why the solar PV facilities is proposed at this location in close proximity to the Gamsberg mountains which might impact on solar resource available during the day.</p>	<p>Thalita Botha replied that a pre-screening study was conducted, and the sites were found to be feasible for solar development.</p> <p>Mike Mangnall added that the production of energy would not be hampered by the location of the solar projects.</p>
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired whether the project team is aware of and have any other renewable projects in the area.</p>	<p>Mr. Peter Smith replied that they are aware of various other developments proposed and those who received EAs in the area.</p> <p>Thalita Botha added that Savannah Environmental undertook a cumulative assessment which considered other solar projects in the area and that a cumulative map is included in Appendix M.</p>

	Mike Mangnall replied that they currently do not have any other renewable projects in or around Aggeneys, and that project locations are dependent on the capacity available at Eskom's substations.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete requested a copy of the environmental sensitivity maps.	Nicolene Venter responded that the Release Code for access to the BARs and the Appendices will be e-mailed to Ms. Cloete. <i>Post-meeting note:</i> <i>The Release Code was e-mailed to Ms. Cloete on Friday, 17 May 2019.</i>

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter again thanked the attendees for their attendance and valuable input into the BA process and comments submitted at the meeting and wished them a safe journey. The meeting was closed at 12h45.

List of Abbreviations

BA	Basic Assessment	BARs	Basic Assessment Reports
C&RR	Comments and Responses Report	DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DOE	Department of Energy	EA	Environmental Authorisation
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan	MTS	Main Transmission Substation
PV	Photovoltaic	REDZ	Renewable Energy Development Zone
REIPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement	Tx	Transmission

APPENDIX A
Meeting Presentation

AGGENEYS SOLAR PV AND GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS

NEAR AGGENEYS NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Focus Group Meetings

16 May 2019

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MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Purpose of the Meeting
3. Project Overview
4. Overview of BA Process
5. Discussion Session
6. Way Forward

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- › Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
- › Appointed as the independent **Environmental Consultant**
- › Responsible for:
 - * **Basic Assessment (BA) Process**
 - * **Public Participation (PP) Process**

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- › ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd:
 - * ABO Wind Aggeneys 1 PV (Pty) Ltd
 - * ABO Wind Aggeneys 2 PV (Pty) Ltd
 - * **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)**

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PROPOSED PROJECTS

- » Aggeneys 1 Solar PV Facility
- » Aggeneys 2 Solar PV Facility
- » Grid connection infrastructure for the Aggeneys 1 Solar PV Facility
- » Grid connection infrastructure for the Aggeneys 2 Solar PV Facility

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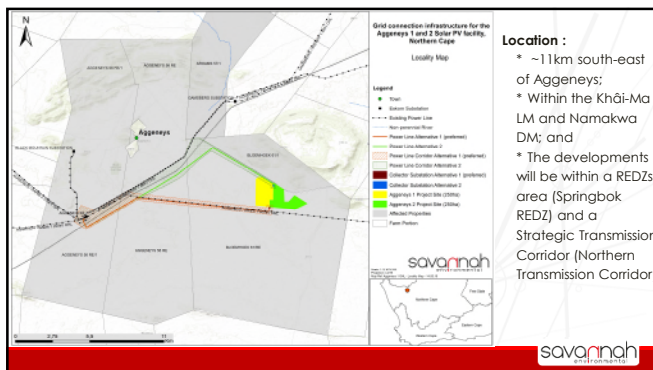
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PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- » Present an overview of the **BA Reports** prepared for the projects
- » Provide a description of the **BA & Public Participation processes** being undertaken
- » Obtain comments for inclusion in the **Final BA Reports**

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6



7

SOLAR PV PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

Each solar PV facility will have a contracted capacity of up to **100MW** and will make use of **PV solar technology**. The project site for each facility is **~250ha**. Each project will comprise of the following components:

- » Arrays of **PV solar panels** (up to ~ 3.5m in height once installed).
- » **Mounting structures**.
- » **On-site inverters** to convert power from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC).

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8

SOLAR PV PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

- » **132kV or 220kV On-site Substation.**
- » Temporary **laydown area** (~5ha in extent).
- » **Internal access roads** up to 5m in width.
- » **Auxiliary buildings** (offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage).
- » Each facility will be connected to the **Aggeneis Main Transmission Substation (MTS)** via an overhead power line with a contracted capacity of up to **220kV**.

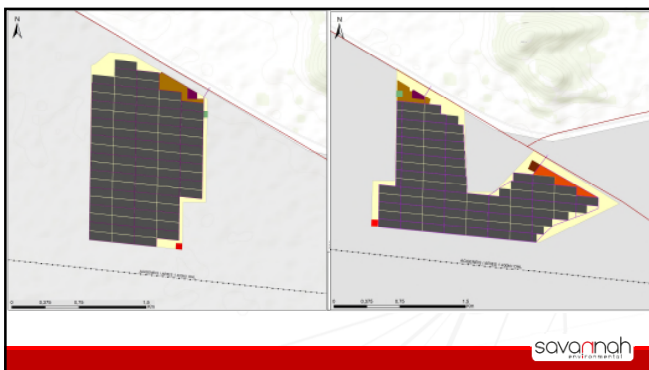
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AGGENEYS 1 AND 2 - ALTERNATIVES

- » **Two (2) on-site substation alternative areas are proposed:**
 - **On-site substation Alternative 1 (preferred):**
Located on the south-eastern and south-western corners of the Aggeneis 1 and 2 project sites.
 - **On-site substation Alternative 2:**
Located within the northern portion of the two (2) project sites and along the eastern and western boundaries of their respective development footprints.

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10



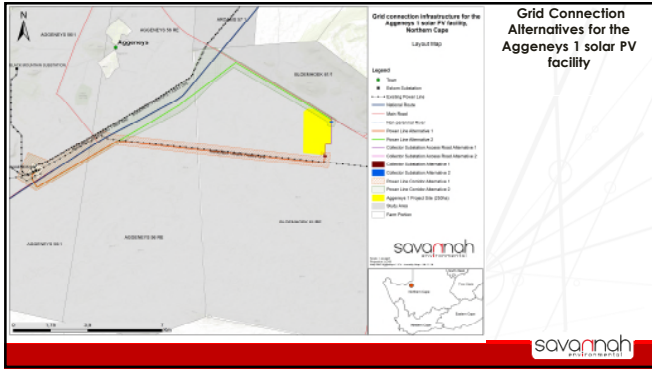
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GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

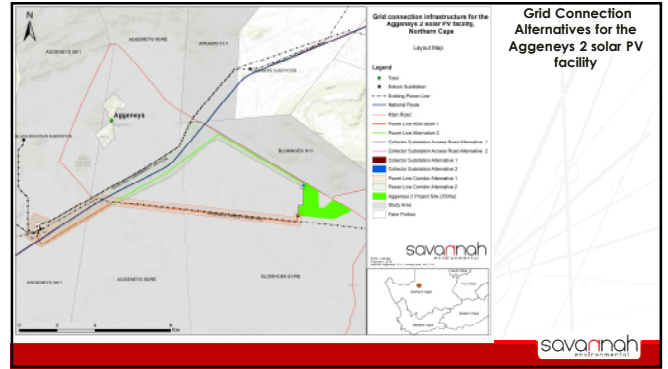
- » Two (2) **Alternative Corridors** have been identified for each project;
- » The alternatives have the following dimensions:
 - * Alternative 1 : 14km long and 1km wide in extent (technically preferred); and
 - * Alternative 2: 17km long and 1km wide in extent.

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12



13



14

GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

» Each corridor will comprise of the following key infrastructure:

- A **Single-Circuit Power line** with a capacity of up to 220kV to connect the respective PV facility to the Aggeneys MTS
- A **Collector Substation**
- **Access Tracks/Roads** to provide access to the power line and substation during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of each project.

15

AFFECTED PROPERTIES

Aggeneys 1	Aggeneys 2	Grid connection infrastructure for Aggeneys 1	Grid connection infrastructure for Aggeneys 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 1 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 2 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 3 of Bloemhoek 61 • Remaining Extent of Aggeneys 56 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 2 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 12 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 13 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 1 of Aroams 57 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 1 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 2 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 3 of Bloemhoek 61 • Remaining Extent of Aggeneys 56 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 2 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 12 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 13 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 1 of Aroams 57

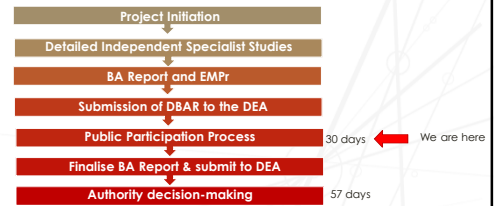
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EIA PROCESS

- » The proposed projects require:
 - * **Environmental Authorisation (EA)** in terms of NEMA & the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.
- » A **BA Report** (one per project) has been made available for a 30-day public review period
 - * **Aggeneys 1 & 2 Review Period: 24 April – 27 May 2019**
 - * **Grid Connection 1 & 2 Review Period: 02 May – 03 June 2019**
- » Following the conclusion of the 30-day public review period a **Final BA Report** (one per project) will be prepared & submitted to DEA.

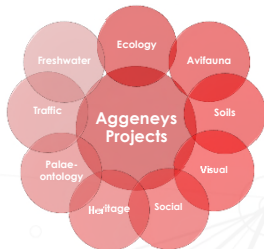
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BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS



18

SPECIALIST STUDIES – PER PROJECT



19

OUTCOMES OF THE BA PROCESS

- » A number of ground-truthed **impacts** & **benefits** from a **Social & Biophysical** perspective;
- » **No fatal flaws** associated with the developments have been identified;
- » All impacts associated with the layouts can be mitigated to acceptable levels; and
- » All four (4) project are environmentally acceptable.

20

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivities
Ecology	Construction – medium to low significance. Operation – low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral washes (medium sensitivity). The red dune habitat (high sensitivity).
Freshwater	Construction – medium to low significance. Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral watercourses (medium sensitivity). A 15m buffer zone is to be implemented for the ephemeral watercourses.

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21

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Soils	Construction and Operation – high to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive areas
Heritage and Palaeontology (incl. archaeology)	Construction and Operation – low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rocky hill (no-go area)
Visual	Construction and Operation – low significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive visual receptors identified.

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22

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Social	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive aspects were identified.
Traffic	Construction and Operation – low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive aspects were identified

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23

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – GRID CONNECTION 1 AND 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Ecology	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor ephemeral watercourses (medium sensitivity). Gravel plains habitat (high sensitivity). The Red Dunes habitat (high sensitivity).
Avifauna	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Red Dunes habitat (high sensitivity).
Freshwater	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral watercourses (medium sensitivity).

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24

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – GRID CONNECTION 1 AND 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Soils	Construction and Operation – high to low significance.	The Red Dune habitat (high sensitivity).
Heritage	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance.	No sensitive or significant heritage resources were identified.
Visual	Construction and Operation – low significance.	No sensitive visual receptors were identified.
Social	Construction and Operation – medium to high significance.	No sensitive social aspects were identified.

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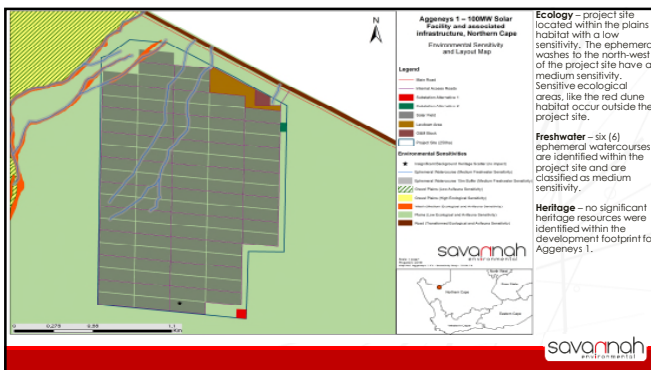
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SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

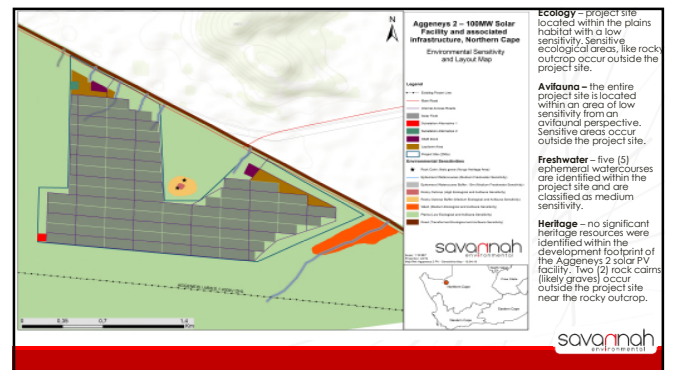
- » A number of **potentially sensitive areas** have been identified within the project sites
- » These are reflected within **Environmental Sensitivity Maps** for the projects
- » The proposed layouts consider the environmental sensitivities.

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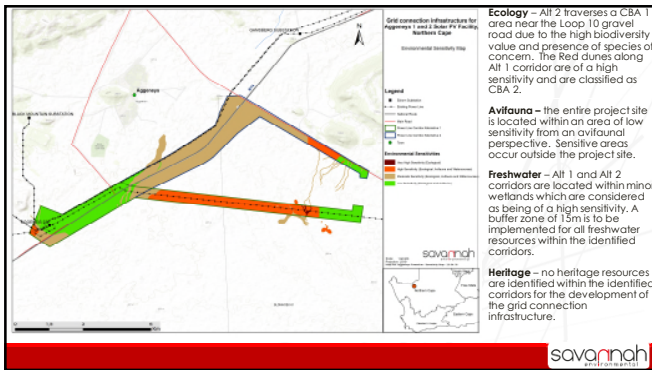
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28



29

CONCLUSION & WAY FORWARD

- » **No fatal flaws** were identified for the development of the Aggeneys 1, 2 and the associated grid connection infrastructure development projects.
- » The preferred layouts are considered **acceptable** from an environmental perspective.
- » Last day to submit comments:
 - * **Aggeneys 1 & 2 : 27 May 2019**
 - * **Grid Connection 1 & 2 : 03 June 2019**

30

DISCUSSION SESSION

» Question & comments are welcome

31


PLEASE DIRECT COMMENTS TO:


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Savannah Environmental
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 f: +27 (0)86 684 0547
 e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
 w: www.savannahsa.com
 a First Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive Office Park
 Cnr Woodlands Drive & Western Service Road
 Woodmead, 2191


32

ATTENDANCE REGISTER


Project	Aggeneys PV 1&2 and Grid Connection 1&2		Meeting	Khai-Ma LM Focus Group Meeting
Date	16 May 2019	Time	09:00	Venue Khai-Ma Local Municipality, Municipal Offices, 21 Nuwe Street, Pofadder

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
ABS Wind	Michael Mangrool Century City Cape Town	Tel: Fax: Cell: 083 7851472 Email: michael.mangrool@abs-wind.co.za	
Designation			
Project Manager			

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Khuni WVA Nuvu	Edwards Naves P.O. Box 108 Pofadder 8890	Tel: 054-9331005 Fax: 054-9330852 Cell: 072 449 0282 Email: naves@khuniwva.gov.za	
Designation			
General Admin Officer			

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Khuni-WVA Municipality	Aggeneys E. Cresswell P.O. Box 108 Pofadder 8890	Tel: 054 933 1017 Fax: 054 933 0352 Cell: 073 840 9492 Email: gresswell@khuniwva.gov.za	
Designation			
Community Affairs Officer			

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Khai-minh km	Đặng Văn 4 Thang Box 108 Phước Hòa	Tel: 054-9331000 Fax: 054-9330252 Cell: 0733998420 Email: munman@khai-minh.gov.vn	
Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Khai-Minh KM	P. T. Bauer P. O. Box 108 Phước Hòa 8890	Tel: 054-9331013 Fax: Cell: 0844159275 Email: joet@khai-minh.gov.vn	
Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Javanmah Environmental	Thị Mỹ Bình	Tel: 011 656 8237 Fax: Cell: Email: thamilha@javanmah.com	
Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Suvarnah Environmental	Nguyễn Việt	Tel: 01 686 3257 Fax: Cell: Email: ndv@suvarnah.com	
Designation			
Public Relations and Social Services			

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details		Signature
Atlantic Energy Partners	Peter Smith	Tel:		
Designation		Fax:		
Project Manager		Cell:	082 300 6497	
		Email:	peter@atlantic.e.p.co.za	

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details		Signature
		Tel:		
		Fax:		
Designation		Cell:		
		Email:		

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details		Signature
		Tel:		
		Fax:		
Designation		Cell:		
		Email:		

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details		Signature
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Designation		Cell:		
		Email:		



BASIC ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

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- record comments raised at the meeting and include it in the Comments and Responses Reports (C&RR) which forms part of the appendices of the final Basic Assessment Reports.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Thalita Botha informed the attendees that the development of the Aggeneys 1 and Aggeneys 2 solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities and the grid connection infrastructures for the Aggeneys 1 and Aggeneys 2 solar PV facilities are proposed approximately 11km south-east of Aggeneys within the Khâi-Ma Local Municipality and the greater Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

Each of the two solar PV projects will have a contracted capacity of up to 100MW and will make use of solar PV technology for the generation of electricity. Each project will comprise the following key infrastructure and components:

- » Arrays of PV solar panels (up to approximately 3.5m in height, once installed).
- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » On-site inverters to convert the power from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC)
- » A 132kV or 220kV on-site substation.
- » Temporary laydown area up to 1ha in extent, for the storage of materials during the construction.
- » Internal access roads of up to 5m in width.
- » Auxiliary buildings (offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage).
- » Each of the solar PV facilities will connect to the Aggeneys Main Transmission Substation (MTS) via an overhead power line with a contracted capacity of up to 220kV.

In terms of alternatives, two (2) on-site substation alternative areas are being proposed which include:

- » On-site substation Alternative 1 (preferred):
Located on the south-eastern and south-western corners of the Aggeneys 1 and 2 project sites.
- » On-site substation Alternative 2:
Located within the northern portion of the two (2) project sites and along the eastern and western boundaries of their respective development footprints.

In terms of the Grid Connection Projects, two (2) alternative corridors have been identified for each of the solar PV projects which include:

- » Alternative 1 : 14km long and 1km wide in extent (technically preferred); and
- » Alternative 2: 17km long and 1km wide in extent

She stated that the solar PV facilities are intended to form part of the Department of Energy's (DoE's) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated by the projects will be sold to Eskom and will feed into the national electricity grid. The development of the projects will assist with the achievement of the electricity goals as set out in the Integrated Resources Plan for electricity (IRP) 2010 – 2030 by diversifying South Africa's electricity mix, and positively contributing towards socio-economic, and environmentally sustainable growth.

OVERVIEW OF BA PROCESSES

Thalita Botha informed the attendees that the projects are located within Zone 8 of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ) (also known as the Springbok REDZ), and within the Northern Transmission Corridor. The procedure to be followed in applying for environmental authorisation for a large-scale project in a REDZ was formally gazetted on 16 February 2018 (in GN113 and GN114). As Aggeneys 1 and Aggeneys 2 are located within one of the eight REDZ areas, the projects are subject to a Basic Assessment and not a full EIA process, as well as a shortened timeframe of 57 days for the processing of an Application for Environmental Authorisation.

The Basic Assessment Reports (BARs) are currently available for the Municipality's, and the public's, review and comment. The BARs review and comment period are as follows:

- » Aggeneys 1 & 2 Review Period: 24 April – 27 May 2019
- » Grid Connection 1 & 2 Review Period: 02 May – 03 June 2019

After incorporating and responding to the comments received during the review periods, the BARs will be updated, and the final BARs will be submitted to the DEA for decision-making.

SUMMARY OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS AS DOCUMENTED IN THE BARs

The environmental studies associated with these proposed projects are:

- Ecology
- Avifauna
- Soils
- Visual
- Social
- Heritage
- Paleontology
- Traffic
- Freshwater

Thalita Botha informed the attendees that the outcomes of the BA for the proposed projects included:

- number of ground-truthed impacts and benefits from a social and biophysical perspective;
- no fatal flaws associated with the developments were identified;
- all impacts associated with the layouts can be mitigated to acceptable levels; and
- all four (4) projects (PVs and grid connections) were found to be environmentally acceptable.

The summary of the key environmental findings for each of the specialist studies undertaken can be found in the presentation attached to these meeting notes (**Appendix A**).

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired whether the project team is aware of the upgrade of the existing 400kV transmission power line traversing the affected property.	Mike Mangnall replied that they have been made aware of the proposed upgrade, but information regarding the status of the project is not yet known.
Mr. Gerhard Visser informed the project team that from a landowner's perspective, Corridor Alternative 1 would be preferred as the impacts would be less as the area is already impacted by the existing 400kV power line and all the impacts would be concentrated in one area.	Thalita Botha acknowledged the recommendation regarding Corridor Alternative 1.
Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired whether the project team is aware of the proposed power line corridor over his property (Farm Kykgat) from Poortjie, linking Juwi's development to the east, into Aggeneys MTS.	Nicolene Venter replied that during the consultation with the landowner, it was not mentioned that there is a possible servitude linked to another project over his property. She acknowledged the information regarding the possible corridor as provided by Mr. Visser and stated that it would be investigated further.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired whether the proposed power line will be owned by ABO.	Thalita Botha replied that should they be a preferred bidder, that the project company will construct the power line and then transfer it to Eskom for operations and maintenance.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired who conducted the Heritage Studies.	Thalita Botha replied that the studies were conducted by Dr Jayson Orton from ASHA Consulting.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete asked, in terms of social impacts, where will the construction workers be housed.	Thalita Botha responded that it is the plan for the construction workers will be transported by bus from either Pofadder or Aggeneys to and from the development sites and that no workers will be housed on site.
Mr. Gerhard Visser asked whether external contractors will be brought in to do the construction of the solar PV facilities.	Mike Mangnall responded that, should they receive preferred Bidder status, the project would be put out on tender and external contractors would be appointed.
Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired whether any objections against the project, to date, were received.	Nicolene Venter replied that no objections were received to date.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete informed the project team of Black Mountain Mine's nature reserve which is located to the south of the N14 and	Thalita Botha thanked Ms. Cloete for the information provided regarding their nature reserve and the access conditions.

<p>said that should access be required during the construction phase, that access needs to be arranged and secured through their Office. She also draws the team's attention to the fact that there are conditions associated with access to the nature reserve that always needs to be adhered to. These conditions are also to prevent any injuries to the construction workers.</p>	
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired where the water for construction purposes will be sourced from.</p>	<p>Thalita Botha replied that water is likely to be sourced from the local municipality.</p>
<p>Mr. Gerhard Visser informed the project team that the water level in the area is very low and the sinking of a borehole is not recommended.</p>	<p>Peter Smith responded that no boreholes will be established on the site.</p>
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete informed the project team of the Sedibeng Water pipeline network and advised ABO to build their own water pipeline connection, to t-off from Sedibeng Water, to their sites.</p>	<p>Mike Mangnall thanked Ms Cloete for the information and knowledge shared.</p>
<p>Mr. Gerhard Visser reiterated that no extraction from groundwater can be done as there is already a crisis with water extraction. The volume of water being extracted by the mine is already hampering farming in the area.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked Mr. Visser for the information shared and requested that the team take note of the water resource conditions and status in the area.</p>
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired whether a Traffic Impact Study was conducted as the Loop 10 road carries heavy traffic.</p>	<p>Thalita Botha responded that a Traffic Impact Assessment was conducted and that the Report is appended to the BAR as Appendix I.</p>
<p>Mr. Gerhard Visser enquired why the solar PV facilities is proposed at this location in close proximity to the Gamsberg mountains which might impact on solar resource available during the day.</p>	<p>Thalita Botha replied that a pre-screening study was conducted, and the sites were found to be feasible for solar development.</p> <p>Mike Mangnall added that the production of energy would not be hampered by the location of the solar projects.</p>
<p>Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete enquired whether the project team is aware of and have any other renewable projects in the area.</p>	<p>Mr. Peter Smith replied that they are aware of various other developments proposed and those who received EAs in the area.</p> <p>Thalita Botha added that Savannah Environmental undertook a cumulative assessment which considered other solar projects in the area and that a cumulative map is included in Appendix M.</p>

	Mike Mangnall replied that they currently do not have any other renewable projects in or around Aggeneys, and that project locations are dependent on the capacity available at Eskom's substations.
Ms. Anne-Marie Cloete requested a copy of the environmental sensitivity maps.	Nicolene Venter responded that the Release Code for access to the BARs and the Appendices will be e-mailed to Ms. Cloete. <u>Post-meeting note:</u> <i>The Release Code was e-mailed to Ms. Cloete on Friday, 17 May 2019.</i>

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter again thanked the attendees for their attendance and valuable input into the BA process and comments submitted at the meeting and wished them a safe journey. The meeting was closed at 12h45.

List of Abbreviations

BA	Basic Assessment	BARs	Basic Assessment Reports
C&RR	Comments and Responses Report	DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs
DOE	Department of Energy	EA	Environmental Authorisation
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan	MTS	Main Transmission Substation
PV	Photovoltaic	REDZ	Renewable Energy Development Zone
REIPPP	Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement	Tx	Transmission

APPENDIX A
Meeting Presentation

AGGENEYS SOLAR PV AND GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS

NEAR AGGENEYS NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Focus Group Meetings

16 May 2019

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MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Purpose of the Meeting
3. Project Overview
4. Overview of BA Process
5. Discussion Session
6. Way Forward

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- » Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
- » Appointed as the independent **Environmental Consultant**
- » Responsible for:
 - * **Basic Assessment (BA) Process**
 - * **Public Participation (PP) Process**

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- » ABO Wind Renewable Energies (Pty) Ltd:
 - * ABO Wind Aggeneys 1 PV (Pty) Ltd
 - * ABO Wind Aggeneys 2 PV (Pty) Ltd
 - * **Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs)**

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PROPOSED PROJECTS

- » Aggeneys 1 Solar PV Facility
- » Aggeneys 2 Solar PV Facility
- » Grid connection infrastructure for the Aggeneys 1 Solar PV Facility
- » Grid connection infrastructure for the Aggeneys 2 Solar PV Facility

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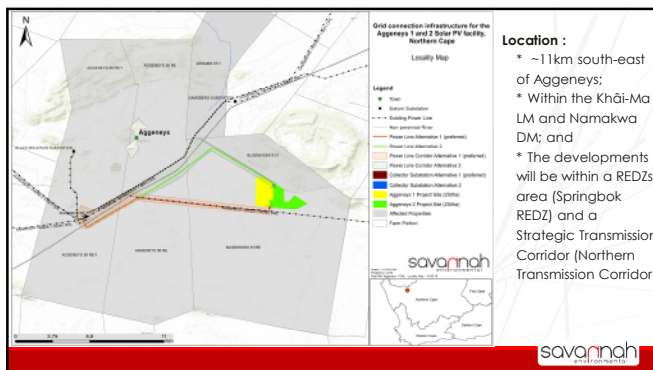
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PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- » Present an overview of the **BA Reports** prepared for the projects
- » Provide a description of the **BA & Public Participation processes** being undertaken
- » Obtain comments for inclusion in the **Final BA Reports**

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7

SOLAR PV PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

Each solar PV facility will have a contracted capacity of up to **100MW** and will make use of **PV solar technology**. The project site for each facility is **~250ha**. Each project will comprise of the following components:

- » Arrays of **PV solar panels** (up to ~ 3.5m in height once installed).
- » **Mounting structures**.
- » **On-site inverters** to convert power from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC).

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SOLAR PV PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

- » **132kV or 220kV On-site Substation.**
- » Temporary **laydown area** (~5ha in extent).
- » **Internal access roads** up to 5m in width.
- » **Auxiliary buildings** (offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage).
- » Each facility will be connected to the **Aggeneis Main Transmission Substation (MTS)** via an overhead power line with a contracted capacity of up to **220kV**.

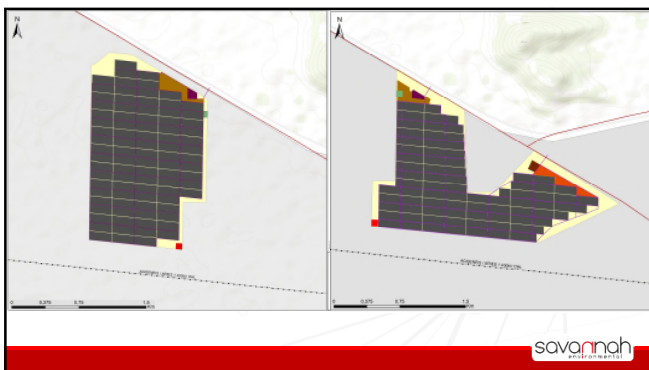
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AGGENEYS 1 AND 2 - ALTERNATIVES

- » **Two (2) on-site substation alternative areas are proposed:**
 - **On-site substation Alternative 1 (preferred):**
Located on the south-eastern and south-western corners of the Aggeneis 1 and 2 project sites.
 - **On-site substation Alternative 2:**
Located within the northern portion of the two (2) project sites and along the eastern and western boundaries of their respective development footprints.

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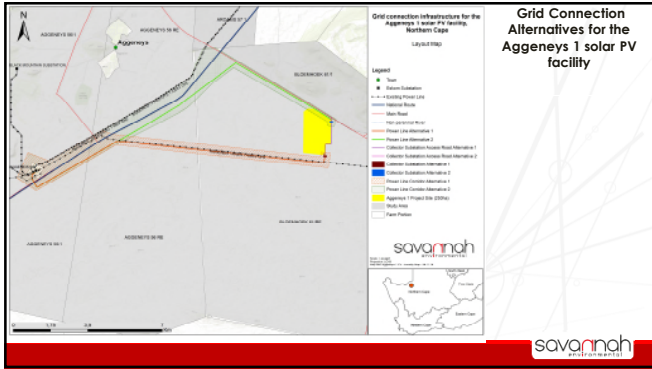
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GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

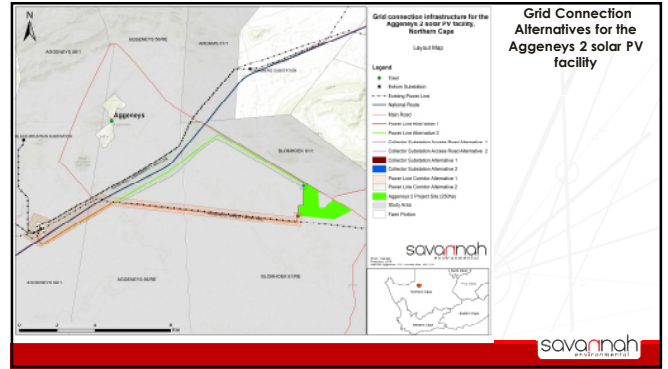
- » Two (2) **Alternative Corridors** have been identified for each project;
- » The alternatives have the following dimensions:
 - * Alternative 1 : 14km long and 1km wide in extent (technically preferred); and
 - * Alternative 2: 17km long and 1km wide in extent.

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12



13



14

GRID CONNECTION PROJECTS – AGGENEYS 1 AND 2

» Each corridor will comprise of the following key infrastructure:

- A **Single-Circuit Power line** with a capacity of up to 220kV to connect the respective PV facility to the Aggeneys MTS
- A **Collector Substation**
- **Access Tracks/Roads** to provide access to the power line and substation during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of each project.

15

AFFECTED PROPERTIES

Aggeneys 1	Aggeneys 2	Grid connection infrastructure for Aggeneys 1	Grid connection infrastructure for Aggeneys 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 1 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 2 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 3 of Bloemhoek 61 • Remaining Extent of Aggeneys 56 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 2 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 12 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 13 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 1 of Aroams 57 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining Extent of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 1 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 2 of Bloemhoek 61 • Portion 3 of Bloemhoek 61 • Remaining Extent of Aggeneys 56 • Remaining Extent of Portion 1 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 2 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 12 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 13 of Aggeneys 56 • Portion 1 of Aroams 57

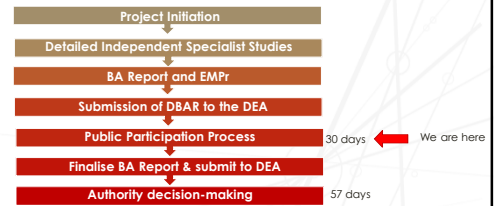
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EIA PROCESS

- » The proposed projects require:
 - * **Environmental Authorisation (EA)** in terms of NEMA & the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.
- » A **BA Report** (one per project) has been made available for a 30-day public review period
 - * **Aggeneys 1 & 2 Review Period: 24 April – 27 May 2019**
 - * **Grid Connection 1 & 2 Review Period: 02 May – 03 June 2019**
- » Following the conclusion of the 30-day public review period a **Final BA Report** (one per project) will be prepared & submitted to DEA.

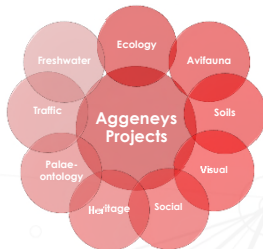
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BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS



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SPECIALIST STUDIES – PER PROJECT



19

OUTCOMES OF THE BA PROCESS

- » A number of ground-truthed **impacts** & **benefits** from a **Social & Biophysical** perspective;
- » **No fatal flaws** associated with the developments have been identified;
- » All impacts associated with the layouts can be mitigated to acceptable levels; and
- » All four (4) project are environmentally acceptable.

20

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivities
Ecology	Construction – medium to low significance. Operation – low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral washes (medium sensitivity). The red dune habitat (high sensitivity).
Freshwater	Construction – medium to low significance Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral watercourses (medium sensitivity). A 15m buffer zone is to be implemented for the ephemeral watercourses.

21

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Soils	Construction and Operation – high to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive areas
Heritage and Palaeontology (incl. archaeology)	Construction and Operation – low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rocky hill (no-go area)
Visual	Construction and Operation – low significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive visual receptors identified.

22

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Social	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive aspects were identified.
Traffic	Construction and Operation – low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive aspects were identified

23

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – GRID CONNECTION 1 AND 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Ecology	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor ephemeral watercourses (medium sensitivity). Gravel plains habitat (high sensitivity). The Red Dunes habitat (high sensitivity).
Avifauna	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Red Dunes habitat (high sensitivity).
Freshwater	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephemeral watercourses (medium sensitivity).

24

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS – GRID CONNECTION 1 AND 2

Specialist Study	Impacts (with implementation of mitigation)	Sensitivity
Soils	Construction and Operation – high to low significance.	The Red Dune habitat (high sensitivity).
Heritage	Construction and Operation – medium to low significance.	No sensitive or significant heritage resources were identified.
Visual	Construction and Operation – low significance.	No sensitive visual receptors were identified.
Social	Construction and Operation – medium to high significance.	No sensitive social aspects were identified.

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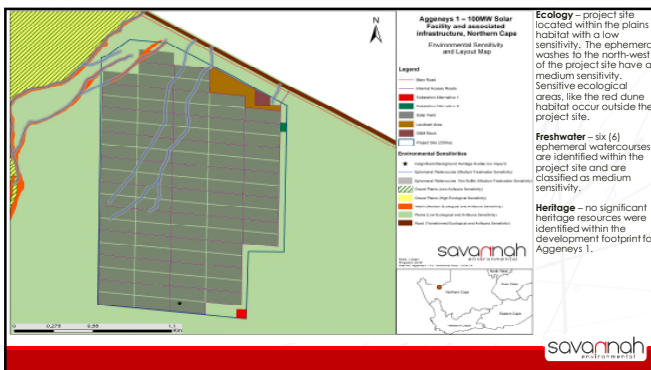
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SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS – AGGENEYS 1 & 2

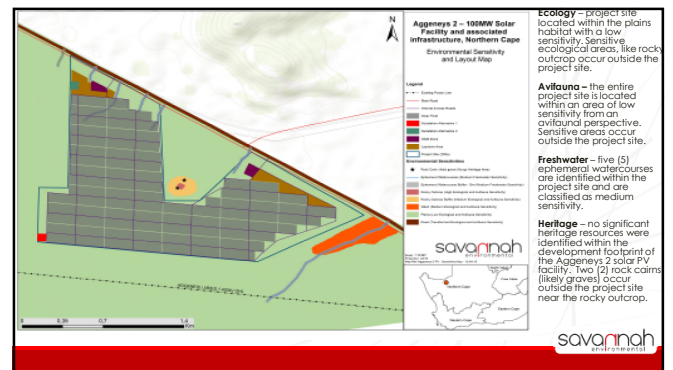
- » A number of **potentially sensitive areas** have been identified within the project sites
- » These are reflected within **Environmental Sensitivity Maps** for the projects
- » The proposed layouts consider the environmental sensitivities.

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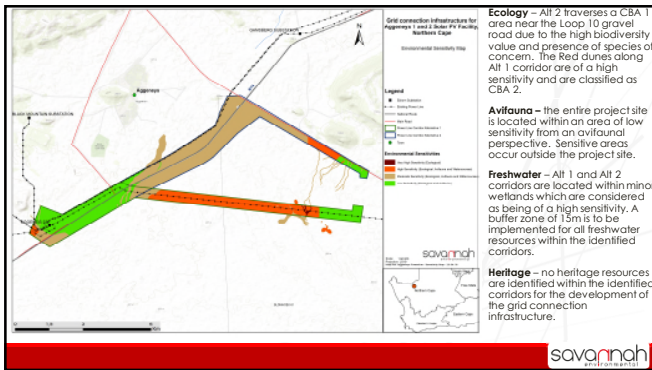
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29

CONCLUSION & WAY FORWARD

- » **No fatal flaws** were identified for the development of the Aggeneys 1, 2 and the associated grid connection infrastructure development projects.
- » The preferred layouts are considered **acceptable** from an environmental perspective.
- » Last day to submit comments:
 - * **Aggeneys 1 & 2 : 27 May 2019**
 - * **Grid Connection 1 & 2 : 03 June 2019**

30

DISCUSSION SESSION

» Question & comments are welcome

31


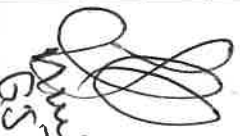

PLEASE DIRECT COMMENTS TO:


Nicolene Venter
Savannah Environmental
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 f: +27 (0)86 684 0547
 e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
 w: www.savannahsa.com
 a First Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive Office Park
 Cnr Woodlands Drive & Western Service Road
 Woodmead, 2191


32

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Project	Aggeneys PV 1&2 and Grid Connection 1&2		Meeting	Landowners Focus Group Meeting
Date	16 May 2019	Time	12:00	Venue
				Old Main Office Boardroom, Vandanta Resources, 1 Penge Road, Aggeneys

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Musiwen Bay Portaal	TEN NISSER Penge 031 Portaal 8890	Tel: 084 645 8971 Fax: — Cell: — Email: tennisser@telkom.net	
did			
Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
KWIGARE	GST NISSER	Tel: 054 933 0801 Fax: — Cell: — Email: —	 GSI 1882
Designation			
KRENDEL			
Designation			
Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
BMM	Anne-Marie Cloete Penge 1 Aggeneys 8893	Tel: 054 983 9202/9385 Fax: — Cell: 082 3441494 Email: Ann.Cloete@vandantaresources.co.za	
Designation			
Env. Officer			

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details			Signature
AT&T Wind	Clement, Tim Mike Mangrull	Tel:		0837857492	
Designation		Fax:			
Project Manager	Cell:	Email:			

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details			Signature
Atlantic Energy Partners	Peter Smith	Tel:		0823006497	
		Designation	Fax:		
Project Manager	Cell:	Email:	Peter@atlant.ener.com		

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details			Signature
		Tel:			
		Fax:			
Designation		Cell:			
		Email:			

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details			Signature
		Tel:			
		Fax:			
Designation		Cell:			
		Email:			