

01 October 2018

Dear Stakeholder

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES FOR THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF FOUR 100MW PV PROJECTS NEAR UPINGTON IN THE NORTHERN CAPE:  
ALLEPAD PV ONE, ALLEPAD PV TWO, ALLEPAD PV THREE, AND ALLEPAD PV FOUR**

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**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESSES**

The development of four 100MW Photovoltaic (PV) facilities and associated infrastructure is proposed on the Remaining Extent of Erf 5315 Upington, located approximately 11km north-west of Upington, in the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality, of the ZF Mgcawu District, in the Northern Cape Province. The projects are to be known as Allepad PV One, Allepad PV Two, Allepad PV Three, and Allepad PV Four. Each of the four Allepad PV projects entails the development of a PV facility and supporting infrastructure.

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

- » Arrays of PV panels with a generation capacity of up to 100MW.
- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » Combiner boxes, on-site inverters (to convert the power from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC)), and power transformers.
- » A 132kV on-site substation up to 1ha in extent to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- » A new 132kV power line approximately 5km in length, between the on-site substation and Eskom grid connection point.
- » Cabling between the project's components (to be laid underground where practical).
- » Meteorological measurement station.
- » Energy storage area of up to 2ha in extent.
- » Access road and internal access road network.
- » On-site buildings and structures, including a control building and office, ablutions and guard house.
- » Perimeter security fencing, access gates and lighting.
- » Temporary construction equipment camp up to 1ha in extent, including temporary site offices, parking and chemical ablation facilities.

- » Temporary laydown area up to 1ha in extent, for the storage of materials during the construction.

All four PV facilities are located on the following affected properties:

**Allepad PV One, Allepad PV Two, Allepad PV Three, and Allepad PV Four PV facilities:**

- » Remaining Extent of Erf 5315 Upington

**Grid connection:**

- » Remaining Extent of Erf 5315 Upington
- » Erf 01 Upington

The projects 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

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS**

The development of the four Allepad PV projects each require that application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) be made to the Competent Authority, the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), in consultation with the Local Commenting Authority, the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC), in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (GNR 326). Separate applications for EA will be made for each project, and will be supported by full Scoping and EIA processes.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Consultants responsible for managing the applications for EA and supporting Scoping and EIA processes. The purpose of these processes is to identify and assess potential environmental impacts associated with the projects, and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures to be included in the project's Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs). Interested and / or Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public participation process.

The department and / or organisation which you represent has been identified as a commenting authority for the four Allepad PV projects. **In this regard, please can you provide us with the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your Department who we would liaise with regarding these projects.** A Background Information Document (BID) which provides further information on the nature and extent of the proposed projects and the EIA processes being undertaken is attached to this letter, and is also available for download on Savannah Environmental's website ([www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com)). By registering on the project's database, you will be kept informed of the EIA processes being undertaken for the projects and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input on the projects.

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

Kind regards

**NICOLENE VENTER**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONSULTANT**  
**SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL**

