

IMPACT ASSESSMENT PHASE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

**NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING: DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 2019 at 14h00

**VENUE: MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS, DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
UPINGTON**

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

ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Municipal Chamber, Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality, Upington

Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2019

Time: 14h00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter, Public Participation Practitioner, Savannah Environmental, thanked Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality's Officials 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.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Mr. Jean Marais	Acting Chief Financial Officer	Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality
Mr. Abraham Snyders	Director: Electricity	
Cllr Maria Maasdorp	Ward Councillor	
Mr. Ivan Juries	Snr Manager: Energy & Tourism	
Mr. Jeremy du Plessis	Manager: Land-Use Management	
Mr. Gerhard Besselsen	Office Manager: Municipal Manager's Office	
Mrs. Thalita Koster	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Ms. Nicolene Venter	Public Participation Practitioner	

APOLOGIES

No apologies were submitted.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

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

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

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Thalita Koster informed the attendees that 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 ablution facilities.
- » Temporary laydown area up to 1ha in extent, for the storage of materials during the construction.

All four PV facilities and associated infrastructure 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; and
 - Erf 01 Upington.

She stated that 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.

OVERVIEW OF EIA PROCESSES

Thalita Koster informed the attendees that the projects trigger an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which is being undertaken to obtain the required Environmental Authorisation (EA).

An overview of the activities undertaken during the scoping phase of the EIAs were presented and it was noted that the projects are currently in the impact phase.

The EIARs are currently available for the Municipality's, and that of the public, review and comment. The EIARs review and comment period is from Thursday, 28 February 2019 to Monday, 01 April 2019. Following the 30-day public review and comment period, all comments will be included in the C&RR and included as an appendix to the Final EIARs that will be submitted to the DEA for decision-making.

She informed the attendees that it is envisaged that the final EIARs will be submitted to the DEA beginning-mid April 2019.

SUMMARY OF KEY ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS AS DOCUMENTED IN THE EIARs

The environmental studies associated with these proposed projects are:

- Ecology
- Avifauna
- Heritage (archeology and paleontology)
- Visual and
- Social.

Thalita Koster informed the attendees that the outcomes of the EIA for the proposed projects included:

- number of ground-thruthed impact and benefits a social and biophysical perspective;
- no fatal flaws were identified;
- all impacts associated with the layouts can be mitigated to acceptable levels; and
- there were all 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
<p>Mr. Abraham Snyders stated that from the presentation it can be confirmed that detailed environmental studies were done for the proposed projects and an advantage for these projects is its proximity to the Olyfenhout Substation.</p> <p>He provided the project team with background regarding the Municipality's proposed Solar Park that is included in their IRP a Solar Park.</p>	<p>Thalita Koster responded that the information provided will be forwarded to the applicant.</p>

<p>It was recommended that the proposed Allepad PVs be developed on the Municipality's Solar Park site and not as an independent project on private property.</p>	
<p>Thalita Koster enquired whether the Municipality's EIA has been concluded and that an EA has been granted for the site.</p>	<p>Mr. Abraham Snyders advised that previous environmental studies had been undertaken.</p>
<p>Mr. Abraham Snyders requested that a meeting between the Municipality and the applicant be arranged to discuss a way forward in terms of developing the four PV projects proposed onto the Municipality's Solar Park Site.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter acknowledged the request for a meeting and informed the Officials that the request will be forwarded to the applicant.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> The applicant had a meeting with the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality on 21 February 2019.</p>
<p>Mr. Jean Marais asked for clarification purposes whether the four proposed sites are located next to the N10 travelling towards Namibia.</p>	<p>Thalita Koster confirmed that the proposed sites are located to the north of the N10 travelling to the Namibian border.</p>
<p>Mr. Ivan Juries informed the project team that, speaking from experience, once projects are granted an EA, and the Independent Power Producer (IPP) is a preferred bidder and construction starts, there is no communication with the Municipalities in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) sustainability of the project; and b) development of SMMEs 	<p>Nicolene Venter responded that this concern will be brought under the applicant's attention.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> The applicant will adhere to the full requirements of the REIPPPP and its EDO commitments.</p>
<p>Mr. Ivan Juries states that the Municipality also does not have any insight into the DOE's and IPPs agreements, especially in terms of the local content and asked as to what the local content is associated with these proposed developments?</p>	<p>Thalita Koster replied that there would be approximately approximately 300 direct jobs associated with the construction phase of the project and approximately 25 over the operational phase.</p> <p>During the construction phase approximately 60% of these direct job opportunities will be for low and non-skilled workers with approximately 25% going to semi-skilled and approximately 15% to skilled workers.</p> <p>The Social Specialist indicated that it is anticipates that the majority of the general labour force will as far as possible be sourced from the local labour pool.</p>

	<p>During the operational phase approximately 40% of the job opportunities will be for low and unskilled workers.</p>
<p>Mr. Ivan Juries enquired as to what is the radius in which local labour / content needs to be sourced.</p> <p>The question is raised as Mier is always excluded from these types of developments and Mier is a very poor community and it is therefore believed that the radius, if it does not include Mier, be extended to include this community.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter replied that as per previous Department of Energy (DOE) requirements the social radius is 50km.</p> <p>The team is not familiar with the location of Mier in terms of the project site but will determine its location and whether it falls within the 50km radius.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> It was confirmed that the town of Mier is located approximately 200km from the proposed project site.</p>
<p>Mr Abraham Snyders provided the project team with background information regarding the conference held in De Aar where SALGA also raised the concern regarding the social commitment from these IPP projects.</p> <p>It needs to be noted by the project team that the Municipality is the actual social engine driving the social machine for these social investments associated with renewable energy.</p> <p>Mr. Snyders stated that he reiterates the fact that the Municipality will object to this proposed development should it negatively impact on the Municipality's Solar Park development.</p> <p>He informed the project team that should the applicant consider developing the projects at the Municipal's Solar Park site, they can expedite the project's approval process.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked Mr Snyders for the information provided and replied that it will be forwarded to the applicant for information purposes.</p> <p>Regarding the matter of objecting to the proposed developments should it not be considered to be developed in the Municipality's Solar Park site is recorded and a formal response will be provided in the C&RR.</p> <p><u>Post-meeting note:</u> The Allepad Solar PV Facilities are proposed on a private property. The Municipality's Solar Park development was considered in the cumulative impact assessment for each project. Based on the specialist cumulative assessment and findings, no impacts or risks identified are, considered as unacceptable.</p> <p>The applicant welcomes the efforts undertaken by the CEF and DKLM in developing a multi platformed "Solar Park" and NCEDA Solar and Springbok REDZ and will closely monitor the outcomes and commercial processes that stem from it.</p>
<p>Mr. Snyders and Juries informed the project team that they will brief the Municipal Manager regarding these proposed projects.</p>	<p>Nicolene Venter thanked the Officials for their commitment to share the information regarding</p>

	these four proposed developments with the Municipal Manager.
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WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE


Nicolene Venter again thanked the Officials for their attendance and that they, together with the Officials of the Local Municipality, will be notified when the Impact phase commences. The meeting was closed at 15:00.


List of Abbreviations


C&RR	Comments and Responses Report	CEF	Central Energy Fund
DEA	Department of Environmental Affairs	DKM	Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality
DOE	Department of Energy	EA	Environmental Authorisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	EIARs	Environmental Impact Assessment Reports
IPP	Independent Power Producer	IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
NCEDA	Northern Cape Economic Development Agency	PV	Photovoltaic
REDZ	Renewable Energy Development Zone	SALGA	South African Local Government Association


ATTENDANCE REGISTER					
Project	Allepad PV1: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1105 Allepad PV2: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1106 Allepad PV3: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1107 Allepad PV4: 14/12/16/3/3/2/1108			Meeting	Focus Group Meeting: Dawid Kruijer Local Municipal Officials
Date	Wednesday, 13 March 2019	Time	14h00	Venue	Chambers, Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality


Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Savannah Environmental	Thalita Koster PO Box 148 SUNNINGHILL 0547	Tel: (011) 656 3237	
Designation		Fax: (086) 685 0547	
Environmental Consultant		Cell: 083 686 4538	
	Email: thalita@savannahsa.com		


Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Savannah Environmental	Nicolene Venter PO Box 148 SUNNINGHILL 0547	Tel: (011) 656 3237	
Designation		Fax: (086) 685 0547	
Public Participation & Social Consultant		Cell: 083 377 9112	
	Email: nicolene@savannahsa.com		

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality	<i>Jean Marais</i> <i>Municipal Str.</i> <i>Upington</i>	Tel: <i>054 338 7059 (yooko cfo)</i>	
Designation		Fax:	
		Cell:	
<i>Acting CTO</i>	Email: <i>jean.marais@dkm.gov.za</i>		

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality	ABRAHAM SNYDERS	Tel: 054 338 7154	
Designation		Fax:	
DIRECTOR: ELECTRICITY		Cell: 0766939626	
		Email: abraham.snyders@dkm.gov.za	

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality	Maria Maesdorp	Tel: 054 338 7023	
Designation		Fax:	
Roads/Trails		Cell: 07 666 237	
		Email:	

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality	Ivan Jurek	Tel: 054 338 7078	
Designation		Fax:	
		Cell: 071 592 4054	
		Email: willem.jurek@dkm.gov.za	

Organization	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality	G. BESSERSON DIA DRAK. MUR	Tel: 0828207110	
Designation		Fax:	
		Cell: 054 338 7016	
		Email:	

APPENDIX A

ALLEPAD PV 1, 2, 3 AND 4 FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Focus Group Meetings

13 – 14 March 2019

savannah
environmental

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MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Purpose of the Meeting
3. Project Overview
4. Overview of EIA Processes
5. Outcomes of the EIA Phase
5. Discussion session
6. Way forward

savannah
environmental

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- » Savannah Environmental (PTY) Ltd
- » Appointed as the independent **Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)**
- » Responsible for:
 - * **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**
 - * **Public Participation (PP) process**

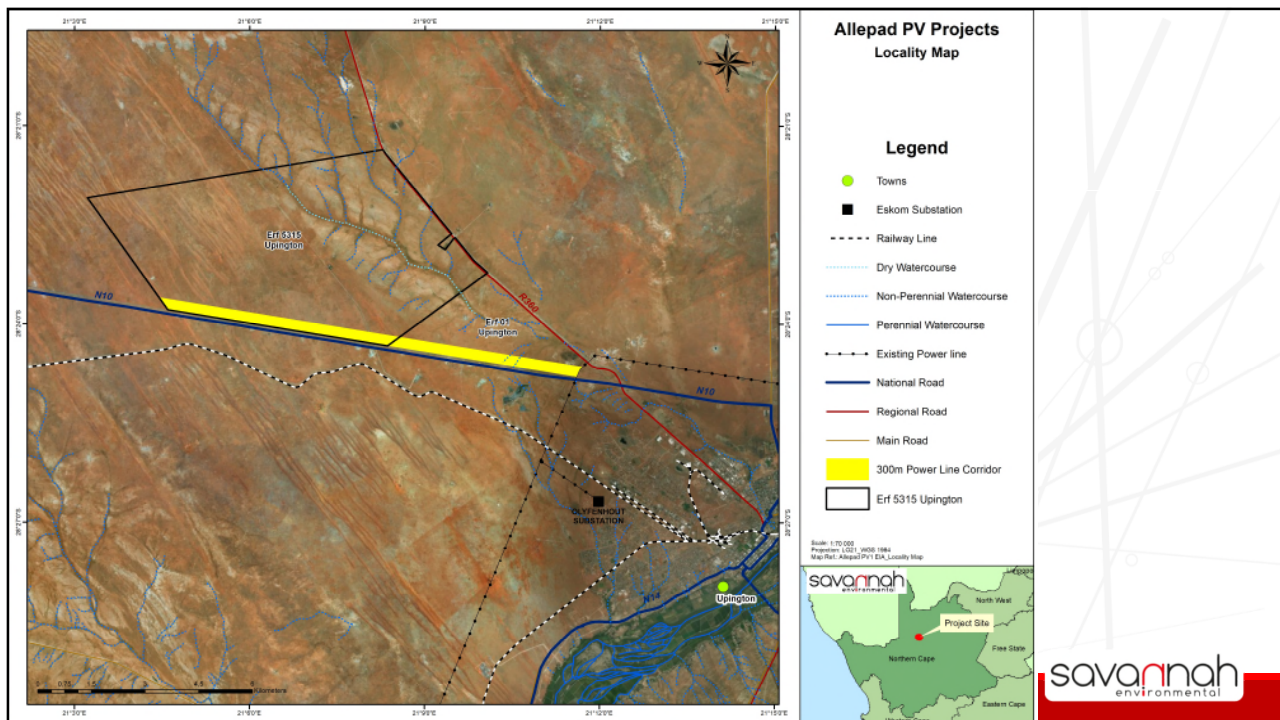
PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- » Present the key findings of the **EIA Reports** prepared for the projects
- » Provide a description of the **EIA & Public Participation processes** being undertaken
- » Obtain comments for inclusion in the **Final EIA Reports** to be submitted to DEA

ALLEPAD PV 1, 2, 3 AND 4

- » Applicant: ILEnergy Development (Pty) Ltd
- » Location:
 - ~11km north-west of Upington
 - Remaining Extent of Erf 5315 Upington (PV Facilities and grid connection)
 - Erf 01 Upington (grid connection)
 - Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality

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ALLEPAD PV 1, 2, 3 AND 4

Each project will have a contracted capacity of up to **100MW**, and will make use of **PV solar technology**. Each project will comprise the following:

- » Arrays of **PV solar panels** (3.5m height).
- » **Mounting structures**.
- » **On-site inverters** to convert power from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC), and a
- » 132kV **On-site substation**

ALLEPAD PV 1, 2, 3 AND 4

- » A **132kV double circuit power line** from the on-site substation to the grid connection point.
- » **Cabling** (underground where practical).
- » **Auxiliary buildings** (offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage).
- » **Energy storage**.
- » **Temporary laydown areas** required during construction.
- » **Internal access roads** and perimeter security fencing around the development area.

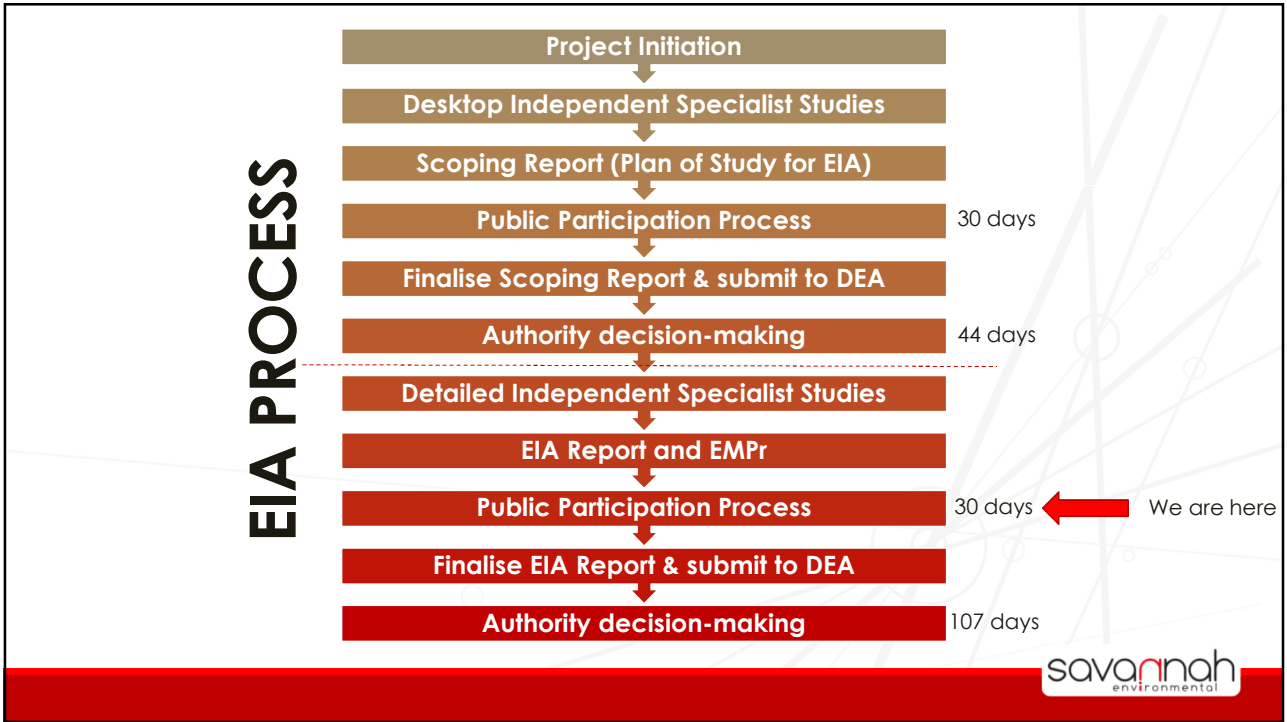
GRID CONNECTIONS

- » A **132kV double circuit power line** from the on-site substation to the 132kV power line between the Uppington MTS and the Gordonia Distribution Substation.
- » Point of connection is **~5km** from project site

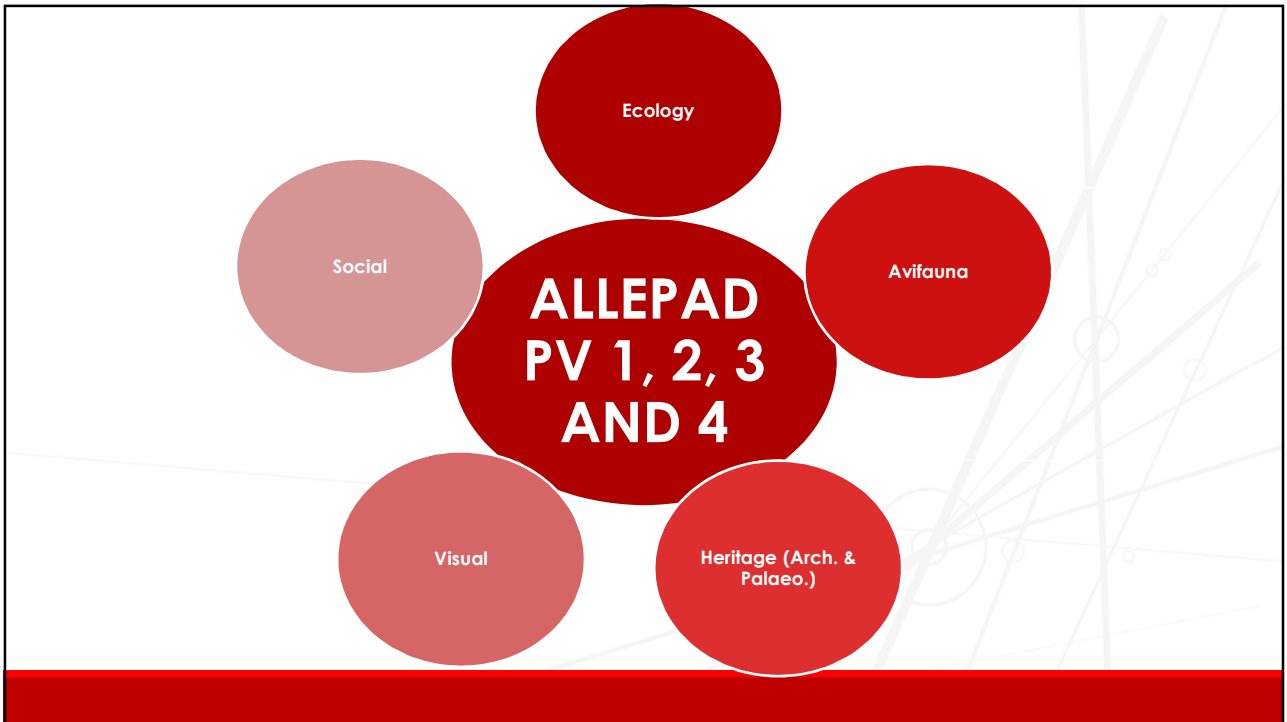
Project	Length of power line
Allepad PV One	~5,3km
Allepad PV Two	~7,3km
Allepad PV Three	~9,5km
Allepad PV Four	~11,7km

EIA PROCESS

- » The proposed project requires:
 - * **Environmental Authorisation (EA)** in terms of NEMA & the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended
- » An **EIA Report** (one per project) has been prepared & is available for a 30-day public review period
 - * **28 February 2019 – 01 April 2019**
- » Following the conclusion of the 30-day public review period a **Final EIA Report** (one per project) will be prepared & submitted to DEA



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OUTCOMES OF THE EIA

- » A number of ground-truthed **impacts & benefits** from a **Social & Biophysical** perspective.
- » **No fatal flaws** have been identified.
- » All impacts associated with the layouts can be mitigated to acceptable levels.
- » Environmentally acceptable.

IMPACTS

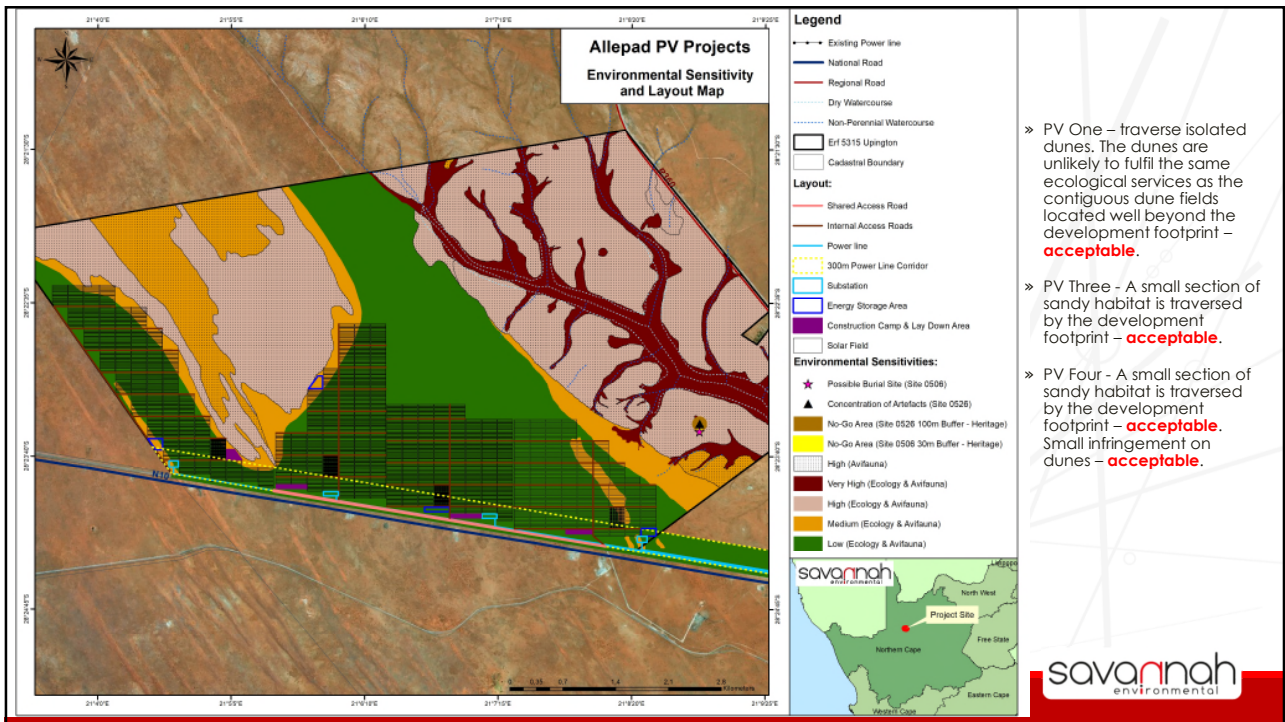
Specialist Study	Impacts
Ecology (Fauna and Flora)	Construction - significance of medium to low following mitigation; no impacts of high significance. Operation - significance of low following mitigation, no impact of high significance.
Avifauna	Construction - significance of medium to low following mitigation. Operation - significance of low following mitigation.
Heritage	Construction - significance of low and no mitigation recommended, i.e. no heritage resources.

IMPACTS

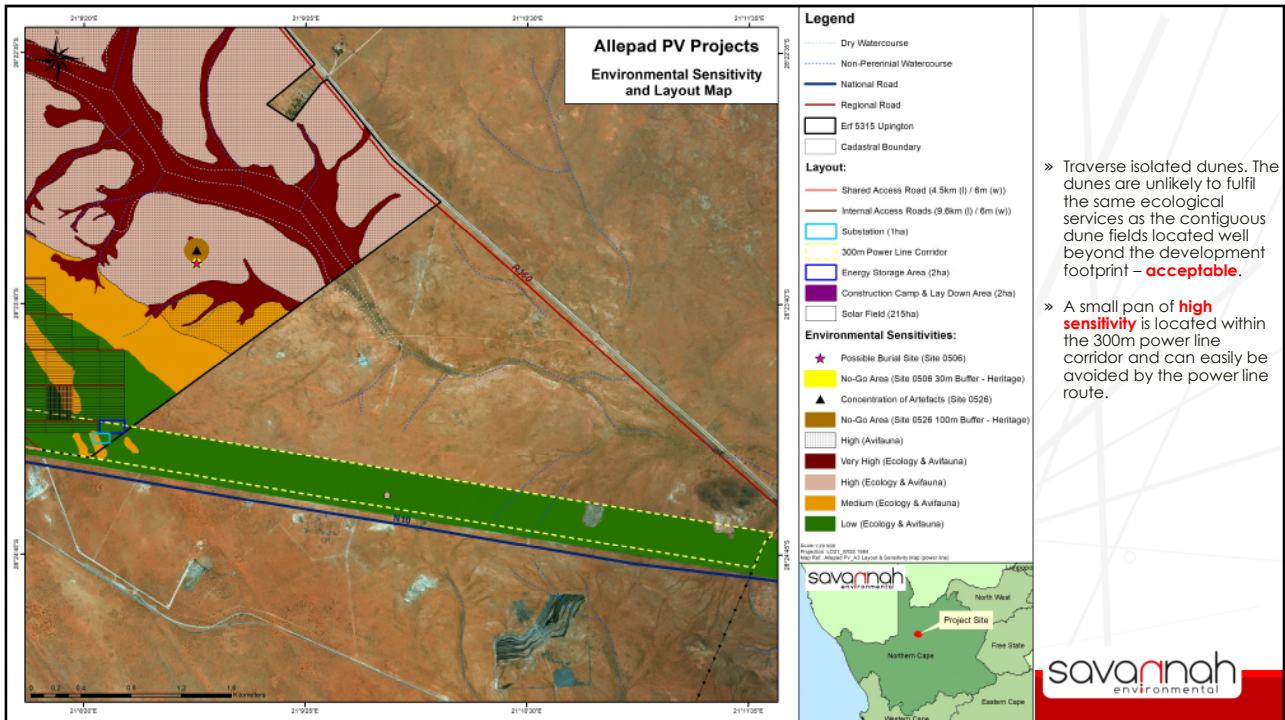
Specialist Study	Impacts
Visual	Construction - significance of low following mitigation Operation - significance of medium to low following mitigation.
Social	Construction - medium positive impacts and low to medium to high negative impacts following mitigation/ enhancement Operation - medium to high positive impacts and medium to high negative impacts following mitigation/ enhancement.

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

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



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DISCUSSION SESSION

» Question & comments are welcome



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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



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SCOPING PHASE

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES (DAFF)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

**NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

HELD ON THURSDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2018

**VENUE: BOARDROOM, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND
FISHERIES (DAFF) OFFICES, LOUISVALLE, UPINGTON**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address

ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Louisvalle, Upington

Date: Thursday, 08 November 2018

Time: 09h30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms. Nicolene Venter, Public Participation Practitioner, Savannah Environmental, thanked Ms. Jacoline Mans, Chief Forester: National Forest Act (NFA) Regulations, Forestry Management for making time available for the Focus Group Meeting. After introducing herself and her role, Mr. Shaun Taylor introduced himself and informed Ms. Mans that he will be presenting the project on behalf of Ms. Sarah Watson, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, who could not attend due to unforeseen reasons.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Ms. Jacoline Mans	Chief Forester	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Mr. Shaun Taylor	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Ms. Nicolene Venter	Public Participation Practitioner	

APOLOGIES

Apologies for Ms. Sarah Watson was presented on her behalf by Savannah Environmental's team members.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

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

All four PV facilities and associated infrastructure 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; and
 - 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

Mr. Shaun Taylor informed the Ms. Mans that the projects trigger an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended, which is being undertaken to obtain the required Environmental Authorisation.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Ms. Jacoline Mans thanked Mr. Shaun Taylor for the project information provided.	Mr. Shaun Taylor confirmed that as per the Scoping Report, there are no <i>Acacia erioloba</i> 's on the property. However, a more detailed ecological assessment will be undertaken in the Impact phase for the project which will include a site visit and identification of any protected
Taking into consideration the biodiversity information provided, it seems that there are no <i>Acacia erioloba</i> 's present on the property.	

Ms. Mans did however raise that there might be other protected and listed flora on the property which will need to be assessed in more detail.	and listed fauna and flora on the affected properties, including the power line corridor.
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WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Ms. Nicolene Venter again thanked Ms. Mans for her attendance and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will be notified when the Impact phase commences. The meeting was closed at 10:00.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

**NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING: DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

HELD ON THURSDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2018

**VENUE: TOWN PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S OFFICE, DAWID KRUIPER LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, UPINGTON**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address

ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Town Planning Department, Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality, Upington

Date: Thursday, 08 November 2018

Time: 11h30

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Nicolene Venter, Public Participation Practitioner, Savannah Environmental, thanked Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality's Officials for making time available for the Focus Group Meeting. She introduced herself and her role in the project after which Mr. Shaun Taylor introduced himself and informed the attendees that he will be presenting the project on behalf of Ms. Sarah Watson, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, who could not attend due to unforeseen reasons.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Mr. Conrad Geldenhuys	Snr Manager: Town Planning & Building Control	Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality
Mr. Jeremy du Plessis	Manager: Land-Use Management	
Mr. Shaun Taylor	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Ms. Nicolene Venter	Public Participation Practitioner	

APOLOGIES

Mr. Elias Ntoba, Municipal Manager, Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality, submitted apologies.

Apologies for Ms. Sarah Watson were presented on her behalf by Savannah Environmental's team members.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

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 Kruijer 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.

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

All four PV facilities and associated infrastructure 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; and
 - 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.

Mr. Shaun Taylor informed the municipal officials that the projects trigger an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended, which is being undertaken to obtain the required Environmental Authorisation.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Mr. Geldenhuys informed the project team was that there are no Township Developments planned south of the proposed Allepad Solar PV project site.	Ms. Nicolene Venter thanked Mr. Geldenhuys for the confirmation.
Ms. Nicolene Venter queried whether the various properties that, according to the Geographic Information System (GIS), are still	Mr. Geldenhuys confirmed that a portion of Erf 01 Upington, property of the Dawid Kruijer Local Municipality, has been sold to a private

<p>owned by the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality.</p>	<p>owner and was registered in the new owner's name in 2016.</p> <p>Contact details of the new owner was provided.</p>
<p>Mr. Geldenhuys informed the project team that an application was received for the proposed development of a waste disposal facility on the property directly south (Erf 01 Upington) of the Allepad proposed development site.</p> <p>This information is included in the Dawid Kruiper Local Municipality's February 2018 Spatial Development Framework (SDF).</p>	<p>Mr. Shaun Taylor thanked Mr. Geldenhuys for the information and stated that the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Specialist had consulted the SDF when drafting the SIA Report.</p>
<p>Ms. Nicolene Venter queried what other process, other than consulting the Municipal Manager's Office to secure a meeting date, could be followed to ensure attendance by the various Head of Departments at the next round of meetings in the Impact phase.</p>	<p>Mr. Geldenhuys and Mr. Du Plessis informed the project team that it is believed that it would be best to secure meetings with the Head of Departments individually.</p>

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Nicolene Venter again thanked the Officials for their attendance and that they, together with the Officials of the Local Municipality, will be notified when the Impact phase commences. The meeting was closed at 12:00.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
LANDOWNERS

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES**

**ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING: LANDOWNERS
HELD ON THURSDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2018
VENUE: DIE AFDAK LODGE & COFFEE SHOP, UPINGTON**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Nicolene Venter
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Please address any comments to Savannah Environmental at the above address

ALLEPAD SOLAR PV FACILITIES NEAR UPINGTON, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Venue: Die Afdak Lodge & Coffee Shop, Upington

Date: Thursday, 08 November 2018

Time: 13h00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Ms. Nicolene Venter, Public Participation Practitioner, Savannah Environmental, thanked Mr. Piet van Schalkwyk for making time available to attend the Focus Group Meeting. She introduced herself and her role in the project after which Mr. Shaun Taylor introduced himself and informed Mr. Van Schalkwyk that he will be presenting the project on behalf of Ms. Sarah Watson, the Environmental Assessment Practitioner, who could not attend due to unforeseen reasons.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Mr. Piet van Schalkwyk	Landowner	Farm: Erf 5315 Upington
Mr. Shaun Taylor	Environmental Assessment Practitioner	Savannah Environmental
Ms. Nicolene Venter	Public Participation Practitioner	

APOLOGIES

Ms. Elizabeth van der Westhuizen, Property Owner, Erf 5314 Upington and Mr. Van Rooyen, Property Owner, Erf 01 Upington submitted apologies.

Apologies for Ms. Sarah Watson was presented on her behalf by Savannah Environmental's team members.

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

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 ablution 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:**
 - o Remaining Extent of Erf 5315 Upington.
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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

Mr. Shaun Taylor informed the Mr. Piet van Schalkwyk that the projects trigger an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in terms of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended, which is being undertaken to obtain the required Environmental Authorisation.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
Mr. Van Schalkwyk informed the project team that safety and security is a concern during the construction phase.	Mr. Shaun Taylor responded that the concern will be forwarded to the Social Specialist for assessment. He also responded that mitigation measures addressing this matter will be included in the Environmental Management Programme.

Mr. van Schalkwyk stated that the development site must be fenced off before construction starts.	Mr. Shaun Taylor responded that this request will be forwarded to the developer.
Ms. Nicolene Venter enquired whether Mr. Van Schalkwyk is a member of the local Farmer's Association.	Mr. Van Schalkwyk replied that he is a member of the Netherlea Farmer's Association.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

Ms. Nicolene Venter again thanked Mr. Van Schalkwyk for his attendance and stated that he will be notified when the Impact phase commences. The meeting was closed at 13:45.

Minutes of meetings held during the ElAr review and
comment period
(to be included in the final ElAr)