

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

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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:**
 - o Remaining Extent of Erf 5315 Upington.
- » **Grid connection:**
 - o Remaining Extent of Erf 5315 Upington; and
 - o 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

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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

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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:

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- » 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 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:

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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

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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)