

APPENDIX C4:  
Organs of State Correspondence

06 August 2021

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

**ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) FOR THE 100MW<sub>ac</sub> VREDE AND 100MW<sub>ac</sub> RONDAVEL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DFFE Ref. Nos.: To be Issued)**

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**NOTICE OF BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

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South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) required to enable the evacuation of generated electricity from the Vrede PV Solar Energy Facility and the Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facility, located ~11km and 6km, respectively, from Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality (Fezile Dabi District Municipality), Free State Province.

The key infrastructure and components associated with each EGI include a 132kV double- or single-circuit overhead power line, a 33/132kV on-site Eskom substation, associated equipment, infrastructure, and buildings, and temporary and permanent laydown areas. The Vrede PV Solar Energy Facility will connect to the national grid via a loop-in loop-out connection into the existing Eskom 132kV Kroonstad Municipality - Theseus 1 132kV Switching Station power line. The Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facility will loop in and loop out into the Eskom 132kV Kroonstad Municipality – Kroonstad Switching Station power line or connect directly with the Kroonstad Municipality 132/66kV substation, depending on which alternative is constructed. Two (2) alternative corridors, each with a varying width of up to 400m are being considered for the Vrede grid connection, and three for the Rondavel grid connection. In addition, two alternative substation locations are being considered for the Rondavel EGI, and only one substation location is being considered for the Vrede EGI. Regardless of which grid corridor alternative is approved for each respective project, a 4 – 6m wide servitude service road under the power line is also required.

Due to the proximity of the EGI to each other, the Public Participation Process for both projects will be undertaken concurrently, providing the public with an opportunity to understand and comment on each project. The details for each project, including the alternatives and the respective farm portions affected by the proposed EGI are as follows:

<b>Project name</b>	<b>Affected Properties</b>	<b>Grid Corridor Alternatives</b>
Vrede EGI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Vrede No. 1152</li> <li>» Remaining Extent of the farm Gesukkel No. 1153</li> <li>» Remaining Extent of the farm Geduld No. 1156</li> </ul>	1 and 2
Rondavel EGI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Rondavel No. 627</li> <li>» Portion 1 of the farm Rondavel No. 627</li> <li>» Portion 0 of the farm Rondavel No. 627</li> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Boschplaat No. 330</li> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Salie No. 1837</li> </ul>	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Rondavel-Noord No. 1475</li> <li>» Portion 1 of the farm Naseby Thorns No. 288</li> <li>» Portion 0 of the farm Leeuwkrantz No. 1384</li> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Dorp Gronden Van Kroonstadt No. 460</li> <li>» Portion 225 of the farm Dorp Gronden Van Kroonstadt No. 460</li> <li>» Portion 226 of the farm Dorp Gronden Van Kroonstadt No. 460</li> </ul>	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Rondavel-Noord No. 1475</li> <li>» Remaining extent of the farm Waterloo No. 1383</li> </ul>	3

Site-specific studies and assessments will delineate areas of potential sensitivity within the identified development areas for both the Vrede and Rondavel EGI. Once constraining factors have been confirmed, the layout of the EGI can be planned to minimise social and environmental impacts.

It is the Developer's intention to bid the Vrede and Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facilities, including their associated EGI, under the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated from each PV Solar Energy Facility will be sold to Eskom and fed into the national electricity grid. The development of the facilities will also assist with achieving the energy mix as set out in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

## **BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

In accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), the development and operation of the proposed EGI requires Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in consultation with the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA).

In terms of Section 24(5) of the NEMA, as read with the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, (GN R 324 and 327)), a Basic Assessment Process is required to be undertaken in support of the application for EA for each project. Each application is required to be supported by comprehensive, independent environmental studies undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

The proponent has appointed Savannah Environmental, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the Basic Assessments (BA) for the respective projects to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the projects and recommend appropriate mitigation measures in the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs). As part of

the environmental studies, Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public involvement process being undertaken by Savannah Environmental.

You and/or the organization / company, which you represent, have been identified as a stakeholder for the proposed projects as described above. The nature and extent of the EGI for each PV Solar Energy Facility is explored in more detail in the Background Information Document (BID) which was distributed in November 2020 and is still available for download from the Savannah Environmental public participation platform on <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/grid-infrastructure/vrede-and-rondavel-grid-sef-2>.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS**

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GN R326). The aim of the PPP is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed project is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs;
- » participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project; and
- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the BA process.

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement and gathering of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on how public consultation can be conducted as part of an EIA processes. The consultation process for these projects has been designed considering these limitations, and the implementation is in line with our public participation plan (PP Plan), as approved by the DFFE. Savannah Environmental have established an online stakeholder engagement platform, where you are invited to register your interest in the project/s, and view project documentation.

Alternative means of undertaking consultation have been designed to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project, predominately through our interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person with interest in the project, enabling the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. This online stakeholder engagement platform allows for the sharing of details regarding the project and consultation documentation, including project maps, presentations, and posters regarding the project, as well as all reports available for review. The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time and allows participation in the consultation process in a meaningful way.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- » Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- » Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.
- » Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.

- » Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the project database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive project documentation.
- » Enabling the EAP to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- » Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- » Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities or access to internet, provision has been made to facilitate the consultation process through limited one-on-one consultation where sanitary conditions can be maintained, as well as consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members.

## **AVAILABILITY OF BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**

As a registered I&AP, you are hereby notified that the Basic Assessment (BA) Reports and associated documentation for each respective project are available for your review and comment from **Friday, 06 August 2021** until **Monday, 06 September 2021**.

In complying with the terms of Government Gazette 43096, the BA Reports have been made available on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform at <https://savannahsa.com/public-documents/grid-infrastructure/vrede-and-rondavel-grid-sef-2>. As per our approved public participation plan submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), you can also request that an electronic copy of the BA Reports be sent to you via file transfer services such as WeTransfer or Dropbox.

Please submit your written comments on the BA Report by **Monday, 06 September 2021** via our online stakeholder engagement platform (link provided above) or:

- » Telephone: 011 656 3237
- » Mobile: 060 978 8396 (including please call me)
- » Fax: 086 684 0547
- » Post: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157
- » E-mail: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

All comments can be addressed to Tumelo Mathulwe at Savannah Environmental.

All comments received during the 30-day review and comment period will be recorded and included in the Final BA Reports for submission to the DFFE in line with Regulation 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GN R326).

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

**Tumelo Mathulwe**

Public Participation Consultant

Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

## Nicolene Venter

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**From:** Savannah Environmental <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 6, 2021 5:09 PM  
**To:** Nicolene Venter  
**Subject:** SE2716: VREDE AND RONDAVEL ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE: Notification of Basic Assessment Reports available for review and comment  
**Attachments:** SE2716-Vrede&Rondavel EGI BARs Notification Letter-FINAL.pdf

### **ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) FOR THE 100MWac VREDE AND 100MWac RONDAVEL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DFFE Ref. Nos.: To be Issued)**

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

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Please find attached the notification letter in which you, as a registered Stakeholder and/or Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), are informed of the availability and review/comments to the Basic Assessment Reports.

The BARs are available for download from Savannah Environmental's stakeholder engagement platform at [Click Here](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding the projects.

Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your comments on the BARs.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)

savannah  
environmental

t: 011 656 3237  
f: 086 684 0547

**Nicolene Venter**  
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com  
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015



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Design

HTML

Preview

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SAVE

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[Print](#)

# SE2716: VREDE AND RONDAVEL ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE: Notification of Basic Assessment Reports available for review and comment

Date: 06  
August 2021  
Time: 05:12  
PM

Company	Last Name	First Name	
	Algarra	Nahed	
	Arnott	Nicholas	
	Bahumi	Tshepo	
	Bekker	Petrus	
	Booi	Morena	
	Chambers	Joshua	
	George	Tebogo	
	Hleli	Luvuyo	
	Itumeleng	Khetsi	
	Kgotlagomang	Sello	
	Kokoropo	Matsiliso	
	Lephuthing	Seipati	
	Liphoko	Maki	
	Mamkulu	Dikeledi	
	Maruluba	Mzingisi	
	Mashimbye	Nkateko	
	Mazibuko	Duma	
	Menzi	Noluna	
	Moeketsi	Ramantso	
	Mokhemia	Thabang	
	Mokhemisa	Mpho	
	Monokoane	Nelson	
	Morabe	Khunong	
	Mosokotsoane	Johannes	
	Motingoe	Refiloe	
	Ndhlovu	John	
	Ndlovu	Sthembiso	
	Nketu	Natash	
	Nkomo	Linda	
	Nthako	Abbey	
	Ntloko	Reginald	
	Nunez	David	
	Rephithile	Rampopo	
	Semila	Semang	
	Tshabalala	Francina	
	Tshesane	Rebone	
	Tshotyana	Kenneth	
	Van Niekerk	Lukas	
	Venter	Nicolene	
Afriforum	Grobler	Gabrie	
Agri Free State	Van Niekerk	Waldo	
Agri Northern Cape	Jansen	Nicol	
Agri SA	Rabie	Janse	



Agri Western Cape	Van Eeden	Helena	
Agri Western Cape	Wessels	Louis	
Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS)	Masilela	Simphiwe	
BirdLife South Africa	Ralston-Paton	Samantha	
Black Farmers Association of South Africa	Mtshagi	Lennox	
Bolako Investments (Pty) Ltd	Du Plessis	Hennie	
Cell C	Everett	Roger	
Cell C	Joubert	Brian	
Cell C	Kasseepursad	Harish	
Cell C	Otto	Marius	
David Crous Trust	Crous	David	
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	M	Petunia	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Buthelezi	Thoko	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Marubini	Mashudu	
Department of Energy	Masipa	Pheladi	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Lekota	Seoka	
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment	Mans	Jacoline	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Mahlatji	Khomotso	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Maphinda	Mthetheleli	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Mutheiwana	Kevin	
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Makgalemele	Nozizwe	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Lenong	Pule	
Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State Province	Nel	George	
Dept of Environment, Small Business Dev, Tourism & Environmental Affairs	Koen	N	
Dept of Environment, Small Business Dev, Tourism & Environmental Affairs	Nokwequ	M	
Dept of Environment, Small Business Dev, Tourism & Environmental Affairs	Thabethe	Peter	
DESTEA	Thamela	Hendrik	
Endangered Wildlife Trust	Hoogstad	Constant	
EPK Projects Sol (Pty) Ltd	Kgabale	Paul	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Geeringh	John	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Grobbelaar	Nico	
Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd	Khanye	Nondwe	
Farmprops 19 (Pty) Ltd	Crous	Adriaan	
Farmprops 19 (Pty) Ltd	Crous	David	
Fezile Dabi District Municipality	Molibeli	Lindi	
Free State - DWS	Ntili	Tseliso	
Free State - DWS	Ratau	Sputnik	
Free State - Heritage Resources Authority (FSHRA)	Nel	Jeane	
Free State Department of Agriculture	Barnes	W	
Free State Department of Agriculture	Mokitlane	M.C	
Free State Department of Agriculture	Mokoena	Thato	
Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Mokone	Thabita	
Free State Department of Economic Small Business Development, Tourism and Envir	Mkhosana	Grace	
Free State Department of Economic Small Business Development, Tourism and Envir	Sello	M	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Maree	Hannes	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Naude	Willie	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Van Wyk	J.W	
Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency	Mbatha	Ntando	
Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency	Philip	L	
Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)	Modimoeng	Keabetswe	
JEM Van Niekerk Trust	Van Niekerk	Kassie	
Langkuil Trust	Van Niekerk	Manie	
Leads 2 Business	Miles	Melanie	
Lechwe Lodge	Wessels	Sarel	
Liquid Telecoms	Gengan	Seshni	
Mainstream Renewable South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Janse van	Liza	

	Vuuren		
Mainstream Renewable South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Kamish	Rafeeqah	
Mainstream Renewable South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Theron	Gesie	
Moleboheng Matli Foundation	Matli	Moleboheng	
Moqhaka Business Forum	Mosokotsoane	Mohlolo	
Moqhaka Community Forum	Thebe	Morena	
Moqhaka for the People	Khoury	Spiro	
Moqhaka for the People	Mafokosi	Leonard	
Moqhaka for the People	Meyer	Anton	
Moqhaka for the People	Mohande	MC	
Moqhaka for the People	Motlhudi	P	
Moqhaka for the People	Motsapele	Doctor	
Moqhaka for the People	Pie	Paul	
Moqhaka for the People	Ramantso	Keke	
Moqhaka for the People	Ramontso	M	
Moqhaka for the People	Visagie	Braam	
Moqhaka for the People	Visagie	Braam	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	.	Madelaine	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	B	Pieter	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Bolofo	Tshidiso	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Bredenkamp	Pieter	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Danster	Abram Moretele	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Geringer	M	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Greeff	Louis	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Kotze	Andre	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	L	Flory	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Labuschagne	A	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Leie	Thekisa	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Mahudi	Hilda	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Monyaki	S	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Morabe	Sibongile	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Motaung	Mahuhudi	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Mqwathi	Simon	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Mthimkhulu	NJ	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Ngobeni	Lerator	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Sefatsa	Ntinti	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Thompson	Rentina	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Vosloo	Magdel	
MTN	Govender	Dennis	
MTN	Molebatsi	Justice	
Ngwao-Boswa Ya Kapa Bokone (NCPHRA)	Timothy	Andrew	
Northern Free State Caregivers	Combrink	Felicity	
Public Works and Rural Development: Free State	Mohlahlo	ME	
Rietgat Trust	Wessels	Gert	
SANRAL	Abrahams	Nicole	
SANRAL	Mabaso	Nxobile	
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd	Bulunga	Nondumiso	
Sentech Ltd	Koegelenberg	Johan	
Sentech Ltd	Motlhake	Serame	
South African Civil Aviation Authority	Pretorius	Marie	
South African Civil Aviation Authority	Stroh	Lizell	
South African Civil Aviation Authority	Vilakazi	Zwelithini	
South African Heritage Resources Agency	Higgitt	Natasha	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Matlhane	Selaelo	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Sithole	Busang	
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)	Tiplady	Adrian	
South African Weather Services	Magogotya	Zamikhaya	
Telkom SA SOC Ltd	Shaw	Leonard	

Transnet SOC Ltd	Njonga	Andiswa	
Vuka Safe Haven	Thebe	Morena	

Totals:

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## Tumelo Mathulwe

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**From:** Savannah Public Process  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 August, 2021 14:43  
**To:** John Geeringh  
**Cc:** Tumelo Mathulwe  
**Subject:** RE: SE2716: VREDE AND RONDAVEL ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE: Notification of Basic Assessment Reports available for review and comment  
**Attachments:** VREDE\_GRID\_CORRIDOR\_OPTION1\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz; VREDE\_GRID\_OPTION1\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz; VREDE\_GRID\_OPTION2\_UTM35S\_20210726.kmz; VREDE\_GRID\_CORRIDOR\_OPTION2\_UTM35S\_20210726.kmz; RONDAVEL\_GRID\_OPTION2\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz; RONDAVEL\_GRID\_OPTION3\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz; RONDAVEL\_GRID\_CORRIDOR\_OPTION2\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz; RONDAVEL\_GRID\_CORRIDOR\_OPTION3\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz; RONDAVEL\_GRID\_OPTION1\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz; RONDAVEL\_GRID\_CORRIDOR\_OPTION1\_UTM35S\_20210727.kmz

Dear John,

Thank you for the Eskom requirements document attached to your e-mail below.

As requested, please find attached the .KMZs:

PROJECT	OPTION	LENGTH
Vrede	Option 1	3.12 km
	Option 2	3.47 km
Rondavel	Option 1	2.33 km
	Option 2	6.11 km
	Option 3	3.68 km

Kind regards,



Nicolene Venter  
**Public Process**

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c: +27 (0)60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

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**From:** John Geeringh <GeerinJH@eskom.co.za>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 1:25 PM  
**To:** Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>  
**Subject:** RE: SE2716: VREDE AND RONDAVEL ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE: Notification of Basic Assessment Reports available for review and comment

Please send me KMZ files of the proposed grid connections. Please find attached Eskom requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)  
Senior Consultant Environmental Management  
Grid Planning: Land and Rights  
Eskom Transmission Division  
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.  
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.  
Tel: 011 516 7233  
Cell: 083 632 7663  
Fax: 086 661 4064  
E-mail: [john.geeringh@eskom.co.za](mailto:john.geeringh@eskom.co.za)



**From:** Savannah Environmental <[publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, 06 August 2021 17:08

**To:** John Geeringh <[GeerinJH@eskom.co.za](mailto:GeerinJH@eskom.co.za)>

**Subject:** SE2716: VREDE AND RONDAVEL ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE: Notification of Basic Assessment Reports available for review and comment

**ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE (EGI) FOR THE 100MWac VREDE AND 100MWac RONDAVEL PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE (DFFE Ref. Nos.: To be Issued)**

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) required to enable the evacuation of generated electricity from the Vrede PV Solar Energy Facility and the Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facility, located ~11km and 6km, respectively, from Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality (Fezile Dabi District Municipality), Free State Province. The key infrastructure and components associated with each EGI include a 132kV double- or single-circuit overhead power line, a 33/132kV on-site Eskom substation, associated equipment, infrastructure, and buildings, and temporary and permanent laydown areas. The Vrede PV Solar Energy Facility will connect to the national grid via a loop-in loop-out connection into the existing Eskom 132kV Kroonstad Municipality - Theseus 1 132kV Switching Station power line. The Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facility will loop in and loop out into the Eskom 132kV Kroonstad Municipality – Kroonstad Switching Station power line or connect directly with the Kroonstad Municipality 132/66kV substation, depending on which alternative is constructed. Two (2) alternative corridors, each with a varying width of up to 400m are being considered for the Vrede grid connection, and three for the Rondavel grid connection. In addition, two alternative substation locations are being considered for the Rondavel EGI, and only one substation location is being considered for the Vrede EGI. Regardless of which grid corridor alternative is approved for each respective project, a 4 – 6m wide servitude service road under the power line is also required.

Please find attached the notification letter in which you, as a registered Stakeholder and/or Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), are informed of the availability and review/comments to the Basic Assessment Reports.

The BARs are available for download from Savannah Environmental's stakeholder engagement platform at [Click Here](#)

-  
Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding the projects.

Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your comments on the BARs.

Kind regards,

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**Nicolene Venter**  
Public Process

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## Tumelo Mathulwe

---

**From:** Ephron Maradwa <EMaradwa@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 August, 2021 23:47  
**To:** Tumelo Mathulwe  
**Cc:** Constance Musemburi; Salome Mambane; EIAAdmin  
**Subject:** 14/12/16/3/3/1/2405

Dear Tumelo

14/12/16/3/3/1/2405

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION AND DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOLLOWING A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE PROPOSED 100Mac RONDAVEL SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE.**

The Department confirms having received the Application and Draft Basic Assessment Report for Environmental Authorisation for the abovementioned project on 06 August 2021. You have submitted these documents to comply with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended.

Kindly note that your application for Environmental Authorisation falls within the ambit of an application applied for in terms of Part 2 of Chapter 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. You are therefore referred to Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended.

Please take note of Regulation 40(3) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that potential Interested & Affected Parties, including the Competent Authority, may be provided with an opportunity to comment on reports and plans contemplated in Regulation 40(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, prior to the submission of an application but must be provided an opportunity to comment on such reports once an application has been submitted to the Competent Authority.

Note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the time-frames prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Department in terms of Regulation 3(7) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Kindly quote the abovementioned reference number in any future correspondence in respect of the application

### **EIA Applications**

Integrated Environmental Authorisations  
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

**Please note that this email is for the receipt and processing of online applications only, and is not monitored for responses. All queries must be directed to [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za).**

**You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.**

Please note that this mailbox has a 5mb mail limit. No zip files are to be attached in any email.



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Call Centre: 086 111 2468

**Ephron Maradwa**

**ELE Admin**

*Env. Imp. Eval: EIE Admin*

**T: 0123999367 | C:**

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**W:**

**A:**



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## Nicolene Venter

---

**From:** Tumelo Mathulwe  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 2:55 PM  
**To:** qndabankulu@environment.gov.za; obstacles@caa.co.za; strohl@caa.co.za; sngcatsha@sahra.org.za; Andiswa.Njonga@transnet.net  
**Cc:** Nondumiso Bulunga; Mmakoena Mmola; Nicolene Venter  
**Subject:** SE2716: 100MWac Vrede & 100MWac Rondavel 100MWac SEF: Invitation to Key Stakeholder Workshop - Presentation  
**Attachments:** Vrede Rondavel BAR FGM Presentation FINAL.pdf

Good Day

Please find attached, the presentation for the Focus Group Meeting held on 19 August 2021 at 14h00.

Kind Regards



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**Tumelo Mathulwe**  
Public Participation Consultant

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# Note Report

Friday, 20 August 2021 10:32

**Lekota, Seoka (Deputy Director)**  
**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

Department: Biodiversity Mainstreaming EIA

**Main 012 399 9573**

**Email** BCAdmin@environment.gov.za  
**Email 2** slekota@environment.gov.za

**2021/08/06 17:04**

**Creator: Nicolene Venter**    **Type: History**

Nicolene Venter has subscribed Seoka Lekota - Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment '<BCAdmin@environment.gov.za>' to Campaign: '2716 Vrede&Rondavel BAR Notification'.

## Tumelo Mathulwe

---

**From:** Savannah Public Process  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 August, 2021 10:49  
**To:** Shalot Sekonko; Savannah Public Process  
**Cc:** PMakitla@environment.gov.za; Aulicia Maifo  
**Subject:** RE: Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) for the 100MWac Vrede and 100MWac Rondavel Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facilities, Located Near Kroonstad, Free State Province

Good Day

Thank you for letting us know, they have been included in our database.

Kind regards



**Tumelo Mathulwe**  
Public Participation Consultant

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**From:** Shalot Sekonko <sekonkoshalot@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 August, 2021 8:25  
**To:** Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>  
**Cc:** PMakitla@environment.gov.za; Aulicia Maifo <amaifo@environment.gov.za>  
**Subject:** Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) for the 100MWac Vrede and 100MWac Rondavel Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facilities, Located Near Kroonstad, Free State Province

Dear Ms Venter

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the Electrical Grid Infrastructure (EGI) for the 100MWac Vrede and 100MWac Rondavel photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facilities, located near Kroonstad, Free State Province. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Ms Makitla and Ms Maifo (both copied on this email).

Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: [BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za) for the attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.

Regards  
Ms Sekonko



t: 011 656 3237  
f: 086 684 0547

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# Proposed development of the Grid Connections for the Rondawel Solar Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province

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[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Tel: 0212028663  
Email: [sngcatsha@sahra.org.za](mailto:sngcatsha@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 16941

Date: Tuesday August 31, 2021  
Page No: 1

## Final Comment

**In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

**South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the construction and operation of the grid connection infrastructure for the proposed 100 MWac Rondawel Solar Energy Facility (SEF), Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure located near the town of Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality (Fezile Dabi District) of the Free State Province of South Africa.**

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd appointed Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed construction and operation of the grid connection infrastructure for the proposed 100 MWac Rondavel Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility (SEF), Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure located on the Remaining Extent, Portion 1 and Portion 0 of Farm Rondavel No. 627, Remaining Extent of Farm Boschplaat No. 330, Remaining Extent of Farm Salie No. 1837, Remaining Extent of Farm Rondavel-Noord No. 1475, Portion 1 of Farm Naseby Thorns No. 288, Portion 0 of Farm Leeuwkrantz No. 1384, Remaining Extent, Portion 225 and Portion 226 Farm Dorp Gronden Van Kroonstadt No. 460 and the Remaining Extent of Farm farm Waterloo No. 1383 in the Moqhaka Local Municipality (Fezile Dabi District) of the Free State Province.

A Draft Basic Assessment Report (DBAR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; No. 107 1998) and the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations. The Electrical Grid Infrastructure includes a 132kV overhead powerline and 33/132kV onsite substation. Three alternative corridors with varying widths of up to 320m in diameter and lengths from 2.33km to 6.1km. Two alternative substation locations are assessed for this development. Associated infrastructure and equipment include roads, buildings, temporary and permanent laydown areas.



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CTS Heritage was appointed to provide the heritage specialist reports as part of the EA process as required in terms of section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and in terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Lavin, J. 2021. Heritage Impact Assessment In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Proposed development of a Grid Connection for the Proposed Rondawel Solar Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province*

The area proposed for the development of the Rondawel Solar Energy facility grid connection has been disturbed through previous agricultural activities and some heritage resources were identified within any of the proposed grid connection alignment options during the field survey, these include isolated and scattered lithic artefacts located more than 50m away from the proposed development area. Four possible graves have been identified and it is recommended that a no-go area of 100m is implemented around site.

The development area is underlain by sediments of the Karoo Supergroup including the Adelaide Subgroup (Pa) as well as Jurassic Dolerite (Jd) intrusions and Quaternary Sands. The Adelaide formation forms part of the Dicynodon and Lystrosaurus assemblage zones and is known to include fossils of fish, amphibians, reptiles, therapsids and vertebrate burrows. Diverse terrestrial and freshwater tetrapods of Pristerognathus to Dicynodon Assemblage Zones have been found in this formation, as well as, palaeoniscoid fish, freshwater bivalves, trace fossils, sparse to rich assemblages of vascular plants and insects. No fresh fossil bearing outcrop was identified within either proposed alignment.

#### Recommendations

There is no objection to the proposed development on heritage grounds on condition that:

- There is no preferred alternative in terms of impacts to heritage resources
- A no-development buffer zone of 50m is implemented around RDW001 and RDW004
- All excavations into bedrock are monitored by a suitably qualified palaeontologist and a report on the outcomes of the monitoring activities must be submitted to SAHRA on completion of the development of the facility.
- All other excavation activities are subject to the Palaeontological Chance Finds Procedure.
- A 100m no development buffer is implemented around the grave site (RDW002)
- Monitoring of vegetation-clearing activities located in proximity to RDW002 by a professional archaeologist takes place. A monitoring report describing the outcome of the monitoring activities must



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be submitted to SAHRA.

- Should any previously unrecorded archaeological resources or possible burials be identified during the course of construction activities, work must cease in the immediate vicinity of the find, and SAHRA must be contacted regarding an appropriate way forward.

*Lavin, J and Stratford, D. 2020. Archaeological Impact Assessment In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Proposed development of a Grid Connection for the proposed Vrede Solar Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province*

The area proposed for the development of the Rondavel SEF and associated infrastructure has yielded some isolated and scattered lithic artefacts (RDW001, RDW003 and RDW004) with varied value and preservation. A series of four stone piles were identified (RDW002) graded as having high local significance (Grade IIIA).

#### Recommendations

There is no objection to the proposed development on heritage grounds on condition that:

- A 100m no development buffer is implemented around the grave site (RDW002)
- Monitoring of vegetation-clearing activities located in proximity to RDW002 by a professional archaeologist takes place. A monitoring report describing the outcome of the monitoring activities must be submitted to SAHRA.
- Should any previously unrecorded archaeological resources or possible burials be identified during the course of construction activities, work must cease in the immediate vicinity of the find, and SAHRA must be contacted regarding an appropriate way forward.

*Chapelle, K. 2020. Palaeontological Impact Assessment In terms of Section 38(8) of the NHRA for the Proposed development of a Grid Connection for the proposed Vrede Solar Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province*

The Vrede SEF and Grid Connections is underlain by sediments of the Karoo Supergroup including the Adelaide Subgroup as well as unfossiliferous Jurassic Dolerite intrusions and Quaternary Sands. The Adelaide

# Proposed development of the Grid Connections for the Rondawel Solar Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province

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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
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Email: [sngcatsha@sahra.org.za](mailto:sngcatsha@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 16941

Date: Tuesday August 31, 2021  
Page No: 4

formation forms part of the Dicynodon and Lystrosaurus assemblage zones and is known to include fossils of fish, amphibians, reptiles, therapsids and vertebrate burrows. No fossils were identified except for a couple of possible fragments of petrified wood on the Rondavel property (RDW\_P07 and RDW\_P15). A Chance Finds of Palaeontological Procedure has been attached to the report.

## Recommendations

- All excavations into bedrock are monitored by a suitably qualified palaeontologist and a report on the outcomes of the monitoring activities must be submitted to SAHRA on completion of the development of the facility.
- All other excavation activities are subject to the Palaeontological Chance Finds Procedure (Appendix 1 of this report).

## Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) has no objections to the authorised development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows;
- Monitoring reports by the palaeontologist and archaeologist must be submitted upon completion of the construction phase that includes site clearance and excavations.



# Proposed development of the Grid Connections for the Rondawel Solar Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province

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- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Mimi Seetelo 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA with regards to offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
  - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
  - The Final BAR and EMPr with the conditions provided by SAHRA in this comment along with the Environmental Authorisation (EA) must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

---

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

# Proposed development of the Grid Connections for the Rondawel Solar Energy Facility near Kroonstad, Free State Province

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CaseID: 16941

Date: Tuesday August 31, 2021  
Page No: 6

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/579811>