




**POFADDER WIND ENERGY FACILITY 1 (PTY) LTD  
POFADDER WIND ENERGY FACILITY 2 (PTY) LTD  
POFADDER WIND ENERGY FACILITY 3 (PTY) LTD  
POFADDER GRID (PTY) LTD**

# **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development of the Pofadder Wind Energy Facility (WEF) 1, 2 and 3 and associated infrastructure (including Grid Connection infrastructure) near Pofadder in the Northern Cape Province**

## **Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Issue Date:	9 March 2022
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Project No:	16876
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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE POFADDER WIND ENERGY  
FACILITY (WEF) 1, 2 AND 3 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND GRID INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR POFADDER IN THE  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP)**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) FOR THE PROPOSED  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE POFADDER WIND ENERGY FACILITY (WEF) 1,  
2 AND 3 AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND GRID  
INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR POFADDER IN THE NORTHERN CAPE  
PROVINCE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The country wide restriction enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096, has resulted in the entire country being placed in a national state of disaster. This has limited the movement and gathering of people in an effort to curb the spread CoVID-19 and therefore requires that the public participation process be amended and adjusted to comply with the restrictions.

As a result, alternative means of undertaking the required stakeholder engagement has been designed and implemented by SiVEST to ensure that all I&APs are afforded reasonable opportunity to engage meaningfully. As such, SiVEST are proposing the following amendments to the public participation process, described in more detail below.

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The applicants, Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1 (Pty) Ltd, Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 2 (Pty) Ltd, Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 3 (Pty) Ltd and Pofadder Grid (Pty) Ltd are proposing the development of commercial Wind Energy Facilities (WEF) and associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 20km South East of Pofadder within the Kai !Garib Local Municipality and the Z F Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape Province.

A preferred project site with an extent of 24 000ha has been identified as a technically suitable area for the development of the three WEF projects. It is proposed that each WEF will comprise of up to 30 turbines with a combined contracted capacity of up to 200MW per WEF. The overall objective of the proposed WEF developments is to generate electricity by means of renewable energy technologies capturing wind energy and to feed into the national grid.

SiVEST Environmental Division has subsequently been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the EIA process for the proposed construction of the Pofadder WEF 1, 2 and 3 as well as the BA for the Pofadder Grid. The proposed developments require EA's from the National Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). However, the provincial authority (i.e. the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform)

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**Pofadder Wind Energy Facility 1/2/3 (Pty) Ltd / Pofadder Grid (Pty) Ltd**

Prepared By:



**Project No.:** 16876  
**DFFE Reference No.:** 2022-02-0019  
**Description:** Pofadder WEF 1/2/3/Grid - PPP Plan  
**Revision No.:** 3.0

will also be consulted with. The EIA for the proposed development will be conducted in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) promulgated in terms of Chapter 5 of the NEMA. All relevant legislation and guidelines will be consulted during the EIA processes and will be complied with at all times.

The projects being undertaken are as follows:

- 200MW Pofadder WEF 1 – **DFFE Reference Number: To be Allocated** (part of separate EIA process / application).
- 200MW Pofadder WEF 2 – **DFFE Reference Number: To be Allocated** (part of separate EIA process / application).
- 200MW Pofadder WEF 3 – **DFFE Reference Number: To be Allocated** (part of separate EIA process / application).

In order to evacuate the energy generated by the WEF's to supplement the national grid, Pofadder Grid (Pty) Ltd is proposing two grid connection alternatives which will be assessed in a separate Integrated Grid BAR:

- **Pofadder WEF 1: Alternative 1:** A ~ 47 km 132 kV OH powerline within a 300 m assessment corridor (150 m on either side) from the Switching Station on site to the proposed Korana MTS.
- **Pofadder WEF 2: Alternative 1:** A ~ 54 km 132 kV OH powerline within a 300 m assessment corridor (150 m on either side) from the Switching Station on site to the proposed Korana MTS.
- **Pofadder WEF 3: Alternative 1:** A ~ 58 km 132 kV OH powerline within a 300 m assessment corridor (150 m on either side) from the Switching Station on site to the proposed Korana MTS.
- **Pofadder WEF 1 Alternative 2:** A ~ 7 km 132 kV OH powerline within a 300 m assessment corridor (150 m on either side) from the Switching Station on site to a proposed new 400/132 kV MTS located south of the WEF and adjacent to the Aggeneis – Aries 400 kV line. This MTS could serve as a back-up to the planned Korana MTS, in the event that Eskom encounters delays or development issues with that project.
- **Pofadder WEF 2 Alternative 2:** A ~ 13.5km km 132 kV OH powerline within a 300 m assessment corridor (150 m on either side) from the Switching Station on site to a proposed new 400/132 kV MTS located south of the WEF and adjacent to the Aggeneis – Aries 400 kV line. This MTS could serve as a back-up to the planned Korana MTS, in the event that Eskom encounters delays or development issues with that project.
- **Pofadder WEF 3 Alternative 2:** A ~ 17 km 132 kV OH powerline within a 300 m assessment corridor (150 m on either side) from the Switching Station on site to a proposed new 400/132 kV MTS located south of the WEF and adjacent to the Aggeneis – Aries 400 kV line. This MTS could serve as a back-up to the planned Korana MTS, in the event that Eskom encounters delays or development issues with that project.

The EA applications for the three wind farm projects and gridline are being undertaken in parallel as they are co-dependent, i.e. one will not be developed without the other.

The respective WEF and grid connection infrastructure developments will require separate Environmental Authorisations (EAs) and are subject to separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Basic Assessment (BA) processes respectively. The proposed grid connection infrastructure developments will be handed over to Eskom once constructed (Eskom grid connection works). The substations will include an Eskom portion (switching station) and an Independent Power Producer (IPP) portion (facility substation) hence the facility substations will be included in the respective WEF EIAs and the Eskom switching stations in the respective associated grid connection infrastructure BAs in order to allow for handover to Eskom.

Although the respective WEFs and associated grid connection infrastructure (switching stations and overhead power lines) developments will be assessed separately, it is proposed that a single public participation process be undertaken to consider all of the proposed projects [i.e. three (3) WEF EIAs and one (1) grid connection BAs]. This is however dependant on approval from the DFFE. The potential environmental impacts associated with all of the proposed developments mentioned above will be assessed as part of the cumulative impact assessment.

### **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN, STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

#### **3.1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS: LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Public participation is the cornerstone of any EIA process. The principles of the NEMA as well as the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), govern the EIA process, including public participation. These include provision of sufficient and transparent information on an on-going basis to Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) and key stakeholders, such as Organs of State (OoS) / authorities, to allow them to comment, and to ensure the participation of previously disadvantaged people, women and the youth.

The public participation process is primarily based on two (2) factors, namely.

1. Firstly, on-going interaction with the environmental specialists and the technical teams in order to achieve integration of technical assessment and public participation throughout; and
2. Secondly, to obtain the bulk of the issues to be addressed early on in the process, with the latter half of the process designed to provide environmental and technical evaluation of these issues. These findings are presented to stakeholders for verification that their issues have been captured and for further comment.

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 R 982). The primary aims of the Public Participation Process are:

- To inform I&APs and key stakeholders of the proposed project;
- To initiate meaningful and timeous participation of I&APs and key stakeholders;
- To identify issues and/or concerns of key stakeholders and I&APs with regards to the proposed project;
- To promote transparency and an understanding of the proposed project and its potential environmental impacts;
- To provide information used for decision-making;
- To provide a structure for liaison and communication with I&APs and key stakeholders;
- To assist in identifying potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project;
- To ensure inclusivity (the views, needs, interests and values of I&APs and key stakeholders must be considered in the decision-making process);
- To focus on issues relevant to the proposed project and issues considered important by I&APs and key stakeholders;
- To provide responses to I&AP and key stakeholder queries / comments / concerns; and
- Meet the requirements for Public Participation as stated in Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

### 3.1.1. Compliance with regulations and subsequent circulars

In terms of Chapter 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), a BA/EIA application requires a 30-day Public Participation Process (PPP) for both the draft BA, Scoping and EIA process. In light of the country wide restriction enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 (GN R 313) which has resulted in the entire country being placed in a national state of disaster and limits the movement and gatherings of people in an effort to curb the spread CoVID-19, the public participation process has been amended and adjusted in light of these restrictions<sup>1</sup>.

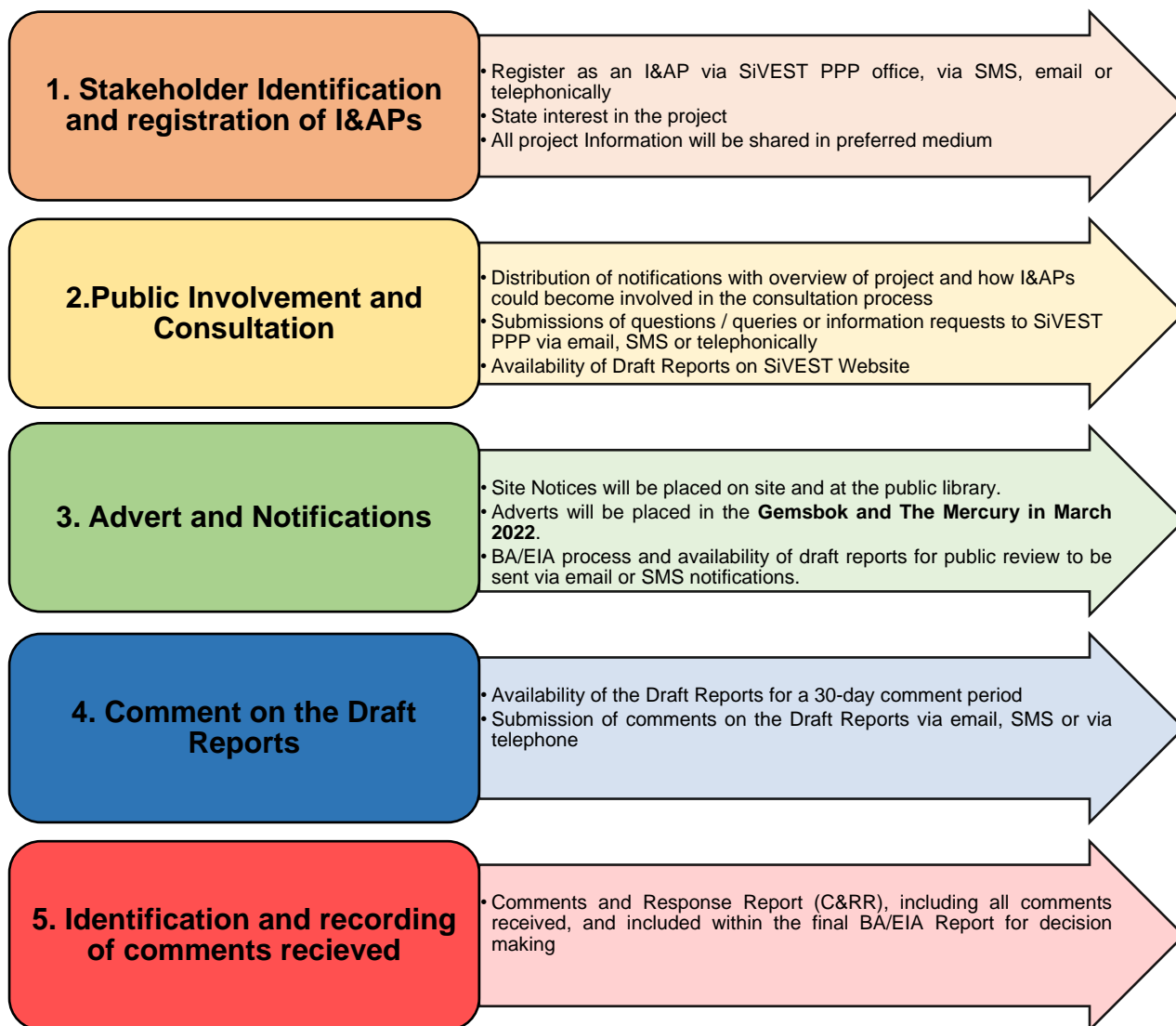
As a result, alternative means of undertaking the required stakeholder engagement has been designed and implemented by SiVEST to ensure that all I&APs are afforded reasonable opportunity to engage meaningfully. As such, SiVEST are proposing the following public participation process, described in more detail below. This Public Participation plan, detailed below, is being submitted to the DFFE for their review and approval.

### 3.2. PROPOSED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Figure 1** below provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public participation team to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

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<sup>1</sup> General Notice issued by the DFFE on 24 March 2020



**Figure 1: Schematic illustration of PPP tools**



**Table 1: Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the Regulations**

Regulation/ circular	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements	Special requests
<p>Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) &amp; Regulation 43 – provide all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, <b>access to project related information</b>, access to the Basic Assessment, Scoping and EIA Report which will be made available for a period of at least 30 days to <b>submit comments on the draft reports</b> prior to submission of the Final Report for decision-making.</p>	<p>It is the intention to release all relevant project information to all interested and/or affected parties for a <u>30-day period</u>.</p> <p><b><u>Notification of BA/EIA process to be undertaken to be distributed using the following means:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issuing of the notifications and initial landowner consultation (to be circulated to all I&amp;APs in March 2022 respectively as part of the Draft Scoping Report (proof to be included in EIA Report).</li> <li>• Placement of site notices in English and Afrikaans (as per regulations) to be placed along the entrance road to the application site and around the site itself on 8 March 2022 (proof to be included in Basic Assessment, Scoping and EIA Report).</li> <li>• Notification letter to be sent via E-mail or sms (if available, alternatively in the method identified/preferred by the I&amp;AP, if appropriate).</li> <li>• Public notification of the BA/EIA process will be advertised in a local newspaper (namely Die Gemsbok) and a Provincial newspaper, namely The Mercury in March 2022, as required according to Regulation 41(2) (c) of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended. Proof to be included in the Basic Assessment, Scoping and EIA Report.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Availability of report for review:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report available on SiVESTs website for download.</li> <li>• Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure digital link that will be emailed upon request for the documentation.</li> <li>• CDs / Flash drive to be couriered/posted, only if requested. (taking into consideration the required 30 day comment period).</li> <li>• The Draft Basic Assessment Report, Draft Scoping Report and the Draft EIA Report will be located at the following location and will be available for review: Pofadder Library, Loop Street, Northern Cape, South Africa</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Availability to comment:</u></b> Comments can be submitted in various mediums detailed in the row below, and will be captured and responded to by the SiVEST PPP Office.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Regulation/ circular	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements	Special requests
<p>Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all project information that has the potential to influence any decision regarding the application, unless protected by law, and must include <b>consultation</b> with Competent Authority, Organs of State &amp; registered I&amp;APs.</p> <p>Regulation 41(6) – Relevant <b>information available and accessible</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report will be submitted to the DFFE using the DFFE online portal.</li> <li>Report will be submitted to Organs of State (OoS) and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, Flash stick or via a secure digital link).</li> </ul> <p><b>Availability of report via means described above.</b></p> <p><b>Submission of comments to EAP:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the SiVEST email address (<a href="mailto:sivest_ppp@sivest.co.za">sivest_ppp@sivest.co.za</a>) or cell phone via call, SMS or WhatsApp (alternatively in the method identified/preferred by the I&amp;AP, if appropriate).</li> <li>Written comments can also be submitted via email.</li> </ul> <p>Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</p> <p>Provision of project information and consultation via various means, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telephonic consultation.</li> <li>Email correspondence.</li> <li>SMS and/or WhatsApp.</li> <li>The SiVEST Website will ensure that I&amp;APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to participate in the project and raise comments on the project with interest in the EIA process for the project. Virtual meetings, if required, will be conducted using an appropriate platform agreeable to all parties (such as Zoom, Skype or Microsoft Teams). The meeting will be recorded, and the attendees' details captured in an attendance register. Confirmation of their attendance will also be requested by e-mail and the correspondence will be included in the report.</li> </ul> <p><i>It should be noted that the use of postage will only be required should and I&amp;AP request that the documents be sent to them via CD or flash drive. All I&amp;APs and OoS will be sent an electronic link to the website where the report can be reviewed or downloaded. Should any I&amp;APs / stakeholders / OoS request documents via post or courier, this will be indicated and proof of postage will be provided in the final report. In addition, the project database in the final report will reflect whether any I&amp;AP / stakeholder / OoS / Authority received the documents via post or courier.</i></p>	<p>None, in line with current NEMA EIA Regulations regarding PPP</p>
<p>Regulation 41(2)(a) – <b>Site notice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Placement of site notices in English and Afrikaans (as per regulations) along the entrance road to the application site will be placed on 8 March 2022 (proof to be included in the reports).</li> <li>Size and content were in accordance with Regulation 41(3) &amp; 41(4).</li> </ul>	<p>None - in line with current NEMA EIA Regulations</p>

Regulation/ circular	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements	Special requests
Regulation 41(2)(b) – <b>Written notification</b> to affected and neighboring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councilors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proof will be incorporated into the reports.</li> <li>• Notification letters to all I&amp;APs and OoS will be sent via email and SMS (where required).</li> <li>• Proof of notifications will be incorporated into the reports.</li> </ul>	regarding PPP None - in line with current NEMA EIA Regulations regarding PPP
Regulation 41(2)(c) – (e) – <b>Advertisements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public notification of the BA/EIA process will be advertised in a local newspaper (namely the Die Gemsbok) and in a Provincial newspaper, namely The Mercury in March 2022, as required according to Regulation 41(2) (c) of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended. Proof to be included in reports.</li> </ul>	None - in line with current NEMA EIA Regulations regarding PPP
Regulation 42 – <b>Project database</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I&amp;APs have been identified through a process of networking and referral, obtaining information from the SiVEST existing stakeholder database, neighbouring projects and liaison with potentially affected parties in the greater surrounding area.</li> <li>• Organs of State, key stakeholders and affected and surrounding landowners have been identified and registered on the project database.</li> <li>• Other stakeholders will be required to formally register their interest in the project through either directly contacting the SiVEST Public Participation team via phone or email or use of the SiVEST website.</li> <li>• The register of I&amp;APs will contain the names of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ all persons who requested to be registered on the database in writing and disclosed their interest in the project;</li> <li>○ all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and</li> <li>○ all persons who submitted written comments or attended virtual meetings and viewed virtual presentations on the SiVEST website during the public participation process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The information captured on the project database will contain the I&amp;AP information in line with POPIA.</li> <li>• No I&amp;AP contact details will be made publicly available.</li> </ul>	None - in line with current NEMA EIA Regulations regarding PPP

Regulation/ circular	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements	Special requests
Regulation 44 – <b>Comments</b> to be recorded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the SiVEST email address (<a href="mailto:sivest_ppp@sivest.co.za">sivest_ppp@sivest.co.za</a>) or cell phone via call, SMS or WhatsApp.</li> <li>• Written comments can also be submitted via calls, SMS, WhatsApp, email.</li> <li>• I&amp;APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the SiVEST website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS or WhatsApp. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.</li> <li>• All comments received throughout the EIA process will be acknowledged and captured in the C&amp;RR with a relevant response.</li> <li>• The C&amp;RR will be included in the final report which will be submitted to the Competent Authority (CA) for decision making.</li> </ul> <p><i>It should be noted that I&amp;APs / stakeholders / OoS will be notified throughout the EIA process to provide comments via the methods mentioned in this PPP. They will also be advised to contact SiVEST directly, if required, in which case other arrangements can be made (if required). SiVEST's public participation email address is monitored on a daily basis to confirm whether any comments or queries have been received. Once a comment is received the project team will save a copy, respond accordingly (using an appropriate method) and the comment / query will also be added to the C&amp;RR (along with an appropriate response), which will be attached to the final report for consideration. SiVEST will also include all proof of correspondence with I&amp;APs, stakeholder and OoS as part of the EIA Report, while the project database in the report will reflect the method of communication with any I&amp;AP / stakeholder / OoS / Authority</i></p>	None - in line with current NEMA EIA Regulations regarding PPP
Regulation 4(2) – Notification of <b>decision</b> on application	<p><b>Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA)</b> using the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification letter with details as outlined in the EA issued will be sent via email and SMS (same method used during public consultation described above).</li> </ul>	None - in line with current NEMA EIA Regulations regarding PPP

## 4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WAY FORWARD

We kindly request approval of the following process to be followed:

### Release of Draft Reports for public comment:

- The Draft Scoping Report, and thereafter both the Draft Basic Assessment and Draft EIA Report for the proposed development will be released for public review and comment for a period of 30 days from the 15 March 2022 till the 13 April 2022 and the 18 July 2022 till the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 respectively (tentative dates).
- The Draft Scoping Report will be submitted at the same time as the Environmental Authorisation (EA) application form is submitted to DFFE.
- The report will be uploaded on to the SiVEST Website at <http://www.sivest.co.za/Download>

### Notification of I&APs, landowners and OoS / authorities:

- All affected landowners, the relevant provincial authority (namely the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform) and I&APs will be notified of the BA/EIA process.
- All landowners (affected and surrounding) and I&APs will be notified of the submission of the Draft Reports and the 30-day public review and comment period accordingly.
- In addition, all Organs of State (OoS) / authorities will be sent electronic copies of the Draft Basic Assessment, Draft Scoping Report and the Draft EIA Report.
- The 30-day review and comment period will be provided for both the public and for OoS / authorities, as required by the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended.
- All I&APs will be notified via Email and SMS, which is deemed suitable considering that contact details are available (i.e. a cellphone number confirms access to a cellphone).

### Comments and Response Report (C&RR):

Comments received on the DBAR, DSR and DEIR will be included in the final reports, which will be submitted to the DFFE for decision making at a later stage (within the timeframes as stipulated in the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended). A full C&RR will also be drafted to capture all comments received during the EIA process, including responses thereto. The C&RR will be included in the Final EIA Report.

The public participation process will come to a close for the project when the decision on the EIA is received and is made available to the public. All registered I&APs / stakeholders will be notified of the EA (should this be granted) and appeal process accordingly<sup>2</sup>.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The Public Participation Plan, as set out above, has been drafted for the BA/EIA Process for the proposed development of the Pofadder Wind Energy Facility (WEF) 1, 2 and 3 and associated infrastructure and Grid Connection to ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs / stakeholders and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all correspondence and notifications will be included in the public participation appendix included in the EIA Report(s).

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<sup>2</sup> Section 43(1) of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA)

The Public Participation Plan is submitted to the DFFE, for discussion and agreement before the Public Participation Process is undertaken for the proposed EIA process.

## 6. SCHEDULE

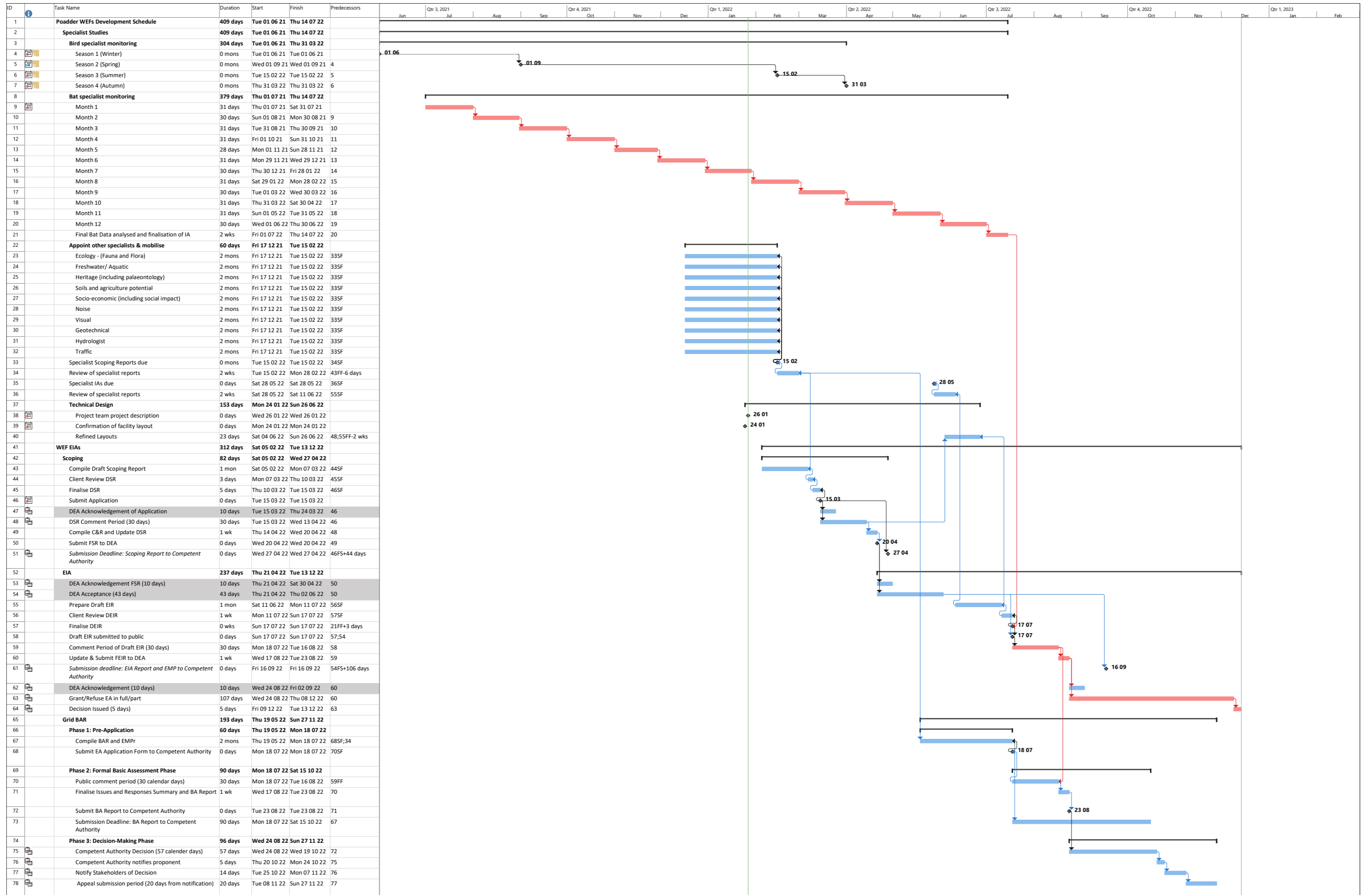
The public participation process will commence in March 2022 with the submission of the draft Scoping Report. Thereafter, the Draft Basic Assessment Report and the Draft EIA Report will go out for comment together from 18 July 2022 till the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2022.

The project schedule is attached in **Appendix A**.



## **APPENDIX A:**

# **Project Schedule**







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