Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd | Directors: KM Jodas, J Thomas, M Matsabu Company Reg No.: 2006/000127/07

VAT Reg No.: 4780226736

NALEDI PV, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

NGWEDI PV, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING WITH DEA: NOTES FOR THE RECORD

Meeting Date: 17 June 2020

Time: 11:00

Venue: via Microsoft Teams (online virtual meeting)

Attendees (Savannah Environmental attendance register attached):

NAME	ORGANISATION
Lunga Dlova	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Masina Litsoane	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)
Karen Jodas	Savannah Environmental (SE)
Lisa Opperman	Savannah Environmental (SE)
Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (SE)
David Peinke	Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners (AEP)
Peter Smith	Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners (AEP)

Savannah Environmental prepared a presentation to cover the items as listed in the agenda(s). These points were presented and included:

- 1. Welcome, introduction and purpose of the meeting.
- 2. Overview of the projects, including location, project infrastructure and associated infrastructure.
- 3. Discussion on Basic Assessment Process.
- Presentation of the Public Participation Plan proposed for the projects.
- 5. Discussion on specialist studies as per the DEA Screening Report and the studies undertaken as part of the BA process.
- 6. Discussions and questions.
- 7. Way forward.
- 8. Meeting closure.

The agenda(s) and presentation are attached to the Notes for completeness.

Notes:

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Department of Environmental Affairs to the Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV projects, advise on the project details and the EIA process, and specifically present the proposed Public Participation Plan for the Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV projects, as per the directions laid out in GNR 650 of 05 June 2020. In addition, the specialist studies undertaken for the projects and the specialist studies identified as part of the DEA Screening Report (through the use of the DEA Screening Tool) was also discussed. The following project-specific documentation was provided to the attendees prior to the online meeting: a) the agenda(s) for the meeting, b) the Background Information Document (BID) for the projects, c) two separate DEA Screening Reports (one for each project), d) the proposed Public Participation Plan for the two projects, and e) an attendance register to be completed by each attendee.

Lisa Opperman opened the meeting, explained the purpose of the meeting, and provided information on the location of the projects in relation to the other existing and proposed developments located within the same properties (i.e. Khi Solar One, Klip Punt PV, McTaggarts PV1, McTaggarts PV2 and McTaggarts PV3). Karen Jodas explained that the projects are both located within the Upington Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ) and will therefore both be subject to a Basic Assessment Process, as per GNR 114.

Lisa Opperman explained that Savannah Environmental has designed a Public Participation Plan which is in-line with the directions issued under GNR 650 as well as Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326) (refer to attached Public Participation Plan). She explained how the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 have been addressed in the Public Participation Plan considering the current restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096, which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Lisa Opperman made the DEA aware of the specialist studies identified as part of the DEA Screening Report for each of the projects. She explained that the Basic Assessment Reports for the two projects are near completion, and that the independent specialist studies, associated fieldwork and reporting for the projects had been undertaken in March and April 2020 and finalised prior to the country being classified as being in a National State of Disaster and entering lockdown. She explained that the specialist studies were, therefore, undertaken and finalised prior to the date where the procedures for the assessment and minimum criteria for reporting on identified environmental themes (GNR 320 of 20 March) came into effect, but could not be released due to the restrictions on initiating new projects (and lodging new Applications for Environmental Authorisation) at that time. The date where the requirements of GNR 320 came into effect was also within the national lockdown period associated with the National State of Disaster.

The following was stated and noted for the record:

» Masina Litsoane (DEA) enquired what the distance of the projects are from Upington. Lisa Opperman advised that the projects are located ~21km to the south-west of Upington.

- » Following the explanation provided by Lisa Opperman (SE) on the tasks proposed as part of the Public Participation Plan, Masina Litsoane (DEA) advised that the plan covers and considers all critical points as per the Public Participation requirements. Masina Litsoane (DEA) also clarified that the Public Participation Plan must be submitted with each Application for Environmental Authorisation (i.e. one for Naledi PV and one for Ngwedi PV). The Public Participation Plan will be formally acknowledged and approved as part of the Acknowledgments of Receipt of the two new applications. Lunga Dlova (DEA) confirmed that the details included within the plan are clear.
- » Masina Litsoane (DEA) and Lunga Dlova (DEA) acknowledged and understood that the specialist studies for the projects had already been completed prior to the implementation of the lockdown period and prior to GNR 320 taking effect. It was confirmed that the studies undertaken and completed prior to the lockdown would still be acceptable as part of the Basic Assessment Reports, and that the cover letter for each project must be clear in stating the timeframes and completion of the independent specialist studies.
- » Masina Litsoane (DEA) advised that the Applications for Environmental Authorisation as well as the Basic Assessment Reports must be submitted using the DEA online portal and that no hard copy submissions will be accepted by the Department. Lisa Opperman (SE) acknowledged the requirement and confirmed that the online portal will be used for submissions of project documentation to the Department. Lisa Opperman (SE) also confirmed that Savannah Environmental has already registered on the online portal.
- » Lunga Dlova (DEA) confirmed that there will be two applications for Environmental Authorisation (i.e. two separate projects) and advised that he will be the case officer for the two projects. Lisa Opperman (SE) advised that the cover letters for the Applications and Basic Assessment Reports will be addressed directly to Lunga Dlova.
- » It was agreed that the notes of the meeting will be distributed to all attendees by Monday 22 June 2020.

No further comments or queries were raised by the attendees. The way forward for the Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV projects is that the two Applications for Environmental Authorisation will be submitted on the DEA online portal as soon as possible.

The meeting was closed at 11:40 AM.

Prepared by:

Lisa Opperman

lisa.o@savannahsa.com

Post-meeting note: Lunga Ndlova confirmed via email (dated 17 June 2020) that the Public Participation plan presented to DEA was deemed adequate and is therefore approved by the Department.

Appendix List:

Appendix A: Attendance Register

Appendix B: Presentation

Appendix C: Public Participation Plan

Appendix D: Approval of the Public Participation Plan

APPENDIX A: ATTENDANCE REGISTER



			ATTENDANC	ATTENDANCE REGISTER		
-	Project	Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV, Norti	nern Cape P	Meeting	DEA Pre-opplication Meeting	
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Date	17 June 2020	Time	1:00	Venue	Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

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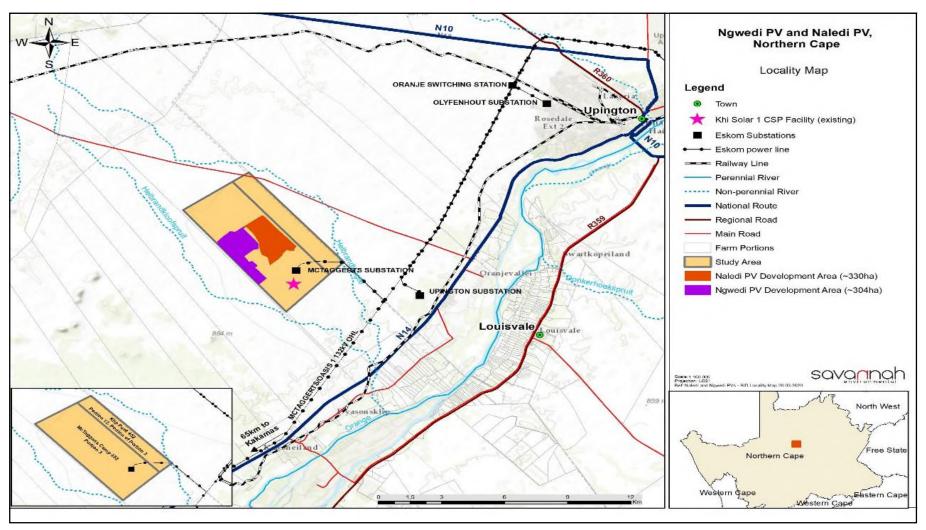
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Project	ct	Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV, Northern Cape Province	wedi PV, Northerr	n Cape Province	Meeting		DEA Pre-application Meeting	
Date		17 June 2020	Time	11:00	Venue		Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting	
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APPENDIX B: PRESENTATION

Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV, Northern Cape Province

Pre-Application Meeting 17 June 2020





2

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

- Alternative means of consultation Regulations 39 to 44
- On-line Stakeholder Engagement Platform interactive web-based platform
- Enable easy access, reach a wider audience, engage on a project without contact, register interest in a project, gaining access to project documentation, maintain database of I&APs through record of persons accessing platform, enable virtual meetings.
- Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

- Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) & Regulation 43
- Regulation 40(2) & Regulation 41(6)
- Regulation 41(2)(a)
- Regulation 41(2)(b)
- Regulation 41(2)(c) (e)
- Regulation 42
- Regulation 44
- Regulation 4(2)

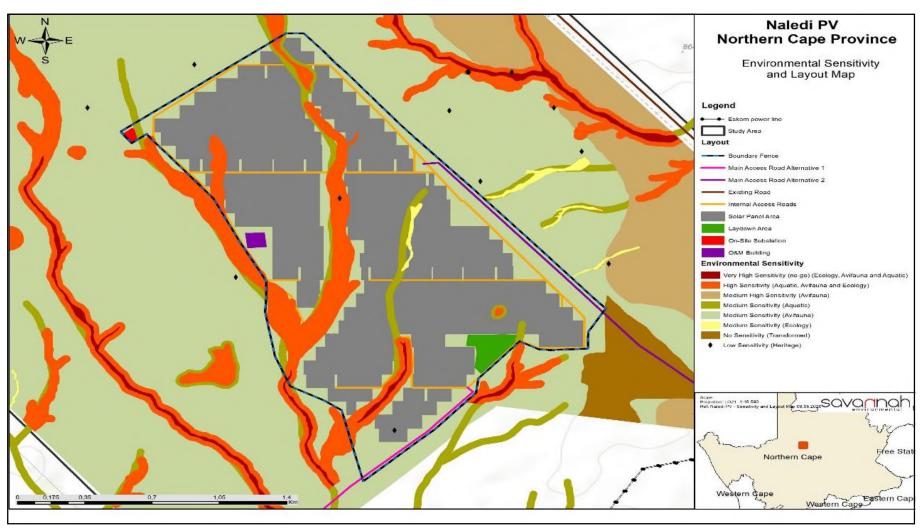


DEA SCREENING TOOL – SPECIALIST STUDIES

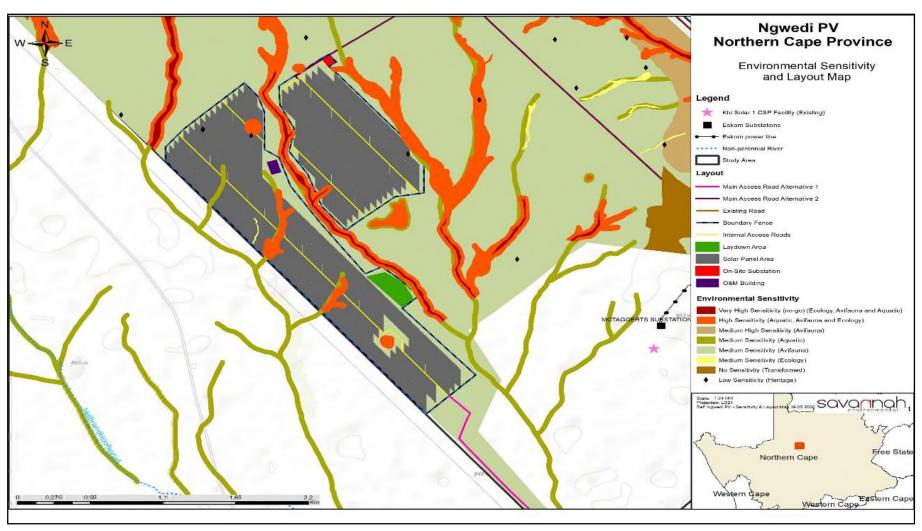
Specialist Assessments Identified

Agricultural Impact Assessment	Civil Aviation Assessment
Landscape / Visual Impact Assessment	Defense Assessment
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment	RFI Assessment
Palaeontology Impact Assessment	Geotechnical Assessment
Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Socio-Economic Assessment
Aquatic Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Plant Species Assessment
Avian Impact Assessment	Animal Species Assessment





6



7

DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS



WAY FORWARD



MEETING CLOSURE



APPENDIX C: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

IN TERMS OF THE DIRECTIONS REGARDING MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 RELATING TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PERMITS AND LICENCES DURING COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 3

NALEDI PV AND NGWEDI PV, NORTHERN CAPE Application(s) to be submitted

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on the commencement and continuation of the public consultation as part of an EIA process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), to cater for the conducting of the public participation process which includes I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

Project Details:

Proposed Activity: The development of two (2) separate solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities, each with a contracted capacity of up to 100MW.

Location: ~20km south-west of Upington within the Kai !Garib Local Municipality and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality. The projects fall within the Upington Renewable Energy Development Zone (or REDZ 7).

Applicant:	Project Name:	Affected Property:
Naledi PV (Pty) Ltd		Portion 3 of the Farm McTaggarts Camp 453; and Portion 12, Portion of Portion 3 of the Farm Klip Punt 452
Ngwedi PV (Pty) Ltd		Portion 3 of the Farm McTaggarts Camp 453; and Portion 12, Portion of Portion 3 of the Farm Klip Punt 452

The following infrastructure will be developed for each project:

- » Solar PV Panels;
- » Centralised inverter stations or string inverters;
- » Cabling between the panels, to be laid underground where practical;
- » On-site facility substation;
- » Main access roads and internal access roads within the PV panel array areas;
- » Permanent laydown area;
- » Operation and Maintenance buildings.

Public Participation Plan:

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process 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 EIA process.

Alternative means of undertaking consultation has been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the project and enables 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 the EAP to visually present details regarding the project and our consultation documentation, including project maps and plans, presentations and posters regarding the project, and 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 allow them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting. The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Disaster Management Act Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces not open for operation or which have restricted access.

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 i.e. access to internet, mobile phones, or computers, provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members.

The schematic illustration 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.

i. Stakeholder identification and register of I&APs

- •Register as an I&AP on the online platfrom via completion of a form and provison of contact information, by responding to an advert, or sending a 'please call me' which will be responded to
- •State interest in the project
- Receive all project related information via email

ii. Advertisments and notifications

- Advertisements, site notices and/or radio announcements and notifications provide information and details on where to access project information
- Notifications regarding the EIA process and availability of project reports for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notifications

iii. Public Involvement and consultation

- Distribution of a BID providing details on the project and how I&APs can become involved in the process
- •Submission of comments or queries via the online platform to the PP team
- Virtual presentations (both English and Afrikaans) available via the online platform
- Availability of project information via the online platform
- An opportunity for I&APs and stakeholders to request virtual meetings with the project team

iv. Comment on the BA Report

- Availability of the project reports via the online platform for 30-day comment period
- •Submission of comments via the online platform, email or post to the PP team
- •Comments recorded and responded to, as part of the process

v. Identification and recording of comments

•Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received, and included within the final Report for decision-making

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned project to ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation appendix included in the Basic Assessment report(s).

The PP plan is submitted to the DEA, for discussion and agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed project.

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

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) & Regulation 43 -	Notification of Basic Assessment (BA) process to be undertaken for application for
provide all potential or registered interested and	Environmental Authorisation (EA) to be distributed using the following means:
affected parties, including the competent authority,	• E-mail
access to project related information, access to the BA report which will be made available for a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on draft reports prior to submission of final reports for decision-making.	 Dedicated project page on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform Post Process notices placed at locations that are accessible to I&APs Advertisement in the printed media.
	 Notification of availability of report and period for review using the following means: Newspaper advert, including details of where the report can be accessed and details of the Savannah Environmental website. Radio adverts on local radio stations. Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax or post) to registered I&APs. Notifications to communities via Ward Councillor, ward committee members, identified and confirmed community representatives, and local community forum members. SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where no other means are available.
	 Availability of report for review: Report available on the Savannah Environmental website for download. Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link that will be emailed upon request for the documentation. CDs to be posted, if requested. Hard copy report to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	Report will be submitted to the DEA using the DEA online portal.
	Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via
	an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, or via a secure Dropbox link).
	Submission of comments to EAP:
	Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the
	Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A
	customised reply form is available on this webpage.
	The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be
	submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the
	assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the
	project reporting.
	Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax.
	Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be
	transcribed and recorded as formal comments.
Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all project	Provision of project information and consultation via various means including:
information that has the potential to influence any	Telephonic consultation.
decision regarding the application, unless protected by	Email correspondence.
law, and must include consultation with Competent	Correspondence sent via post.
Authority, Organs of State & registered I&APs.	SMS and/or WhatsApp.
	The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform will
Regulation 41(6) – Relevant information available and	ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to participate in the
accessible	project and raise comments on the project to any person with interest in the
	BA process for the project. This online stakeholder engagement platform
	which will include the following:
	 A means to register on the project database and provide details of their
	interest in the project
	Background information on the project

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements O Project maps (including locality map, layout map, sensitivity map, landowner map, etc) O Photos of the project site and surrounds O Presentation with narration providing a summary of the project details and the findings of the BA O Posters providing a summary of the findings of the BA O A means of submitting written comment or queries. Virtual meetings 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.
	Communities will be consulted via the relevant Ward Councillor, ward committee members, community representative or local community forum members, as determined and confirmed during the consultation process.
Regulation 41(2)(a) – Site notice	 Site notices will be placed at affected properties by the EAP, landowner or specialist, depending on specific travel restrictions applicable at the time. Size and content will be in accordance with Regulation 41(3) & 41(4).
Regulation 41(2)(b) – Written notification to affected and neighbouring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councillors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA	Notification letter to be sent via email, fax or post.
Regulation 41(2)(c) – (e) – Advertisements	 Advert to be placed in a local newspaper. Radio adverts will be used as alternative means based on the nature, extent of the projects and the demographics within the vicinity of the project location. Process notices (A4 size) with site notice details will be placed at public places that are frequented by and accessible to community members during Alert Level 3.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
Regulation 42 – Project database	1&APs to be identified through a process of networking and referral, obtaining
	information from the Savannah Environmental existing stakeholder database,
	liaison with potentially affected parties in the greater surrounding area and a
	registration process involving the completion of a reply form.
	Organs of State, key stakeholders and affected and surrounding landowners will
	be identified and registered on the project database.
	Other stakeholders will be required to formally register their interest in the project
	through either directly contacting the Savannah Environmental Public
	Participation team via email or fax or use of the Savannah Environmental website.
	 In order to access the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement
	platform for a specific project, I&APs will be required to provide their details such
	that they are automatically registered on the project database.
	The register of I&APs will contain the names of:
	o all persons who requested to be registered on the database through the use
	of the Savannah Environmental website, or in writing and disclosed their interest in the project;
	 all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and
	o all persons who submitted written comments or attended virtual meetings
	and viewed virtual presentations on the Savannah Environmental website
	during the public participation process.
	The information captured on the project database will contain the names,
	organisation and contact details, as required.
Regulation 44 – Comments to be recorded	Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the Savannah
	Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A customised reply
	form is available on this webpage.
	The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform includes:

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	 A means to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project A means of submitting written comment or queries. The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting. Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax. Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. I&APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the Savannah Environmental website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS, WhatsApp or by sending a Please-call-me notification. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. All comments received throughout the EIA process will be acknowledged and captured in the comments and responses report (C&RR) with a relevant response. The C&RR will be included in the final report submitted to the CA.
Regulation 4(2) – Notification of decision on application	Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA) using the following means:
	 Notification letter with details as outlined in the EA issued will be sent via email, fax or post. Notification will be available on the Savannah Environmental website. Notifications that the EA has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives. SMS or WhatsApp notification.

APPENDIX D: APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Lisa Opperman

From: Lunga Dlova <LDlova@environment.gov.za>

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 1:46 PM

To: Lisa Opperman

Cc: Masina Litsoane; Karen Jodas; Peter Smith; David Peinke

Subject: RE: Request for Pre-Application Meeting - Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV, Northern Cape

Province

Attachments: PV Upington Pre Application Register.pdf

Dear Lisa

Please find attached pre-application register.

Also note that the public participation plan you presented this morning deemed adequate and therefore approved by the Department.

You must include the PPP to the minutes.

Regards Lunga

From: Lisa Opperman [mailto:lisa.o@savannahsa.com]

Sent: 17 June 2020 08:38 AM

To: Lunga Dlova

Cc: Masina Litsoane; Karen Jodas; Peter Smith; David Peinke

Subject: RE: Request for Pre-Application Meeting - Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV, Northern Cape Province

Dear Lunga,

Thank you for the meeting request pertaining to the Naledi and Ngwedi PV pre-application meeting.

I have attached the Background information document for the projects. Also attached you will find the DEA Screening Reports for the projects as well as the proposed public participation plan to be discussed during the meeting.

Further to the above, I have attached an attendance register for completion. Kindly complete and send back the form to myself for record keeping following the meeting.

I will do a short presentation during the meeting as per the points included in the Agendas submitted (Agendas attached).

Kind regards

Lisa

Lisa Opperman

Environmental Consultant | Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Tel: +27 (0)11 656 3237 | Fax: +27 (0)86 684 0547

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

From: Lisa Opperman

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 9:36 AM

To: Lunga Dlova <LDlova@environment.gov.za>

Cc: <u>MLitsoane@environment.gov.za</u>; Karen Jodas < <u>karen@savannahsa.com</u>>; Peter Smith < <u>peter@atlanticep.com</u>>;

David Peinke < david@atlanticep.com >

Subject: Request for Pre-Application Meeting - Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV, Northern Cape Province

Importance: High

Dear Lunga,

Thank you for the call earlier today.

As discussed, you advised that we would be able to have the Pre-Application Meeting this coming Wednesday, 17 June 2020, for the Naledi PV and Ngwedi PV projects. You mentioned a possible time of 11:00 for the meeting, kindly confirm the time as soon as you are able.

Please see the parties cc'ed that will be joining the meeting from our side.

Please can you advise whether the meeting request will be submitted from your side using Microsoft Teams.

Kind regards Lisa



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237 f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Lisa Opperman

Environmental and GIS consultant

e: <u>lisa.o@savannahsa.com</u> c: +27 (0) 84 920 3111

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

'Please consider the environment before you print this email' 'Please consider the environment before you print this email'

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