



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA · 0001· Environment House · 473 Steve Biko, Arcadia· PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/868

Enquiries: Ms. Mmamohale Kabasa

Telephone: (012) 399 9420 **E-mail:** MKabasa@henvironment.gov.za

Ms Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 50 MW ILANGA CSP 4 EAST OF THE TOWN OF UPINGTON WITHIN THE KHARA HAIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The draft Scoping Report (SR) dated November 2015 and received by this Department on 18 November 2015 refers.

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- iii. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.
- iv. The specialist studies conducted must be specific to each of the sites applied for. The specialist must provide recommendations and mitigation measures specific to each site and the EAP must provide mitigation measures; an assessment and recommendations for each site as well as the cumulative impacts for each of the facilities.
- v. Scoping specialist studies, if applicable, must be submitted to the Department with the final SR.
- vi. This Department requires a cumulative impact assessment to be undertaken in the final SR to determine potential fatal flaws.

- vii. This Department requests the EAP to include the specialist consultants who will conduct the specialist assessments.
- viii. This Department requests the EAP to familiarise themselves with the requirements of Appendix 2 of GNR 982 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and ensure that the final SR submitted to this Department for consideration meets the requirements in terms of identifying, assessing and providing mitigation measures of the impacts on the alternative and preferred sites.
- ix. Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.
- x. A significant amount of materials and equipment will be delivered to the site during the construction phase of the development. The EIA must include a traffic assessment study. The study must determine the specific traffic needs during the different phases of implementation.
- xi. In accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of—
 - (i) *the EAP who prepared the report; and*
 - (ii) *the expertise of the EAP to carry out the Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures;*
 must be submitted.
- xii. You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- xiii. Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of the these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

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.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach
Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Date: 08/12/2015

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|-----|--------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| cc: | Mr P Ndebele | FG Emvelo (Pty) Ltd | Email: pancho@emvelo.co.za |
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Telephone: (012) 399 9420 **E-mail:** MKabasa@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: joanne@savannahsa.com

PER EMAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 50 MW ILANGA CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY TO BE KNOWN AS ILANGA CSP 4 ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM MATJIESRIVIER NO. 41 EAST OF THE TOWN OF UPINGTON WITHIN THE KHARA HAIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Scoping Report (SR) and Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment (PoSEIA) dated January 2016 and received by this Department on 08 January 2016 refer.

This Department has evaluated the submitted SR and the PoSEIA dated January 2016 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014. The SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

You may proceed with the EIA process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the PoSEIA and the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

All comments and recommendations made by all stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) in the draft SR and submitted as part of the final SR must be taken into consideration when preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAR) in respect of the proposed development. Please ensure that all mitigation measures and recommendations in the specialist studies are addressed and included in the final EIAR and Environmental Management Programme (EMPr).

Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the provincial Department of Agriculture, the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), SENTECH, the Department of Transport, the Local Municipality, the District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), BirdLife SA, the Department of Mineral Resources, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, the Department of Environmental Affairs: Directorate Biodiversity and Conservation and the Square Kilometre Array (SKA).

Please be advised that the contact person for renewable projects at the SKA office is Dr Adrian Tiplady and he can be contacted on Tel: (011) 442 2434 or E-mail: atiplady@ska.ac.za.

Please ensure that the EIAr and EMPr comply with Appendix 3 and Appendix 4 of Regulation 2014, before submission to the Department. You are also required to address all issues raised by organs of state and I&APs prior to the submission of the EIAr to the Department.

Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the EIAr. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.

The EAP must, in order to give effect to Regulation 8, give registered I&APs access to, and an opportunity to comment on the report in writing within 30 days before submitting the final EIAr to the Department.

In addition, the following additional information is required for the EIAr:

- i. The EAP must provide detailed motivation and reasons on the applicability of Activity 4 and 6 of GN R. 984. In addition, the impacts, and any specialist study to assess the impacts for these activities must be provided in the draft EIAr.
- ii. GN R.983 Item 19: With regards to infilling and excavation of watercourses for the construction of the CSP facility, this Department requires the applicant to provide an indication of the preferred and alternate locations from which the material used for infilling will be sourced and where excavated material will be stored and/or disposed of. In addition, the impacts associated with this activity must be adequately assessed in the EIAr.
- iii. The draft EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.
- iv. The listed activities represented in the EIAr and the application form must be the same and correct.
- v. It is noted that no activity under GN R 985 is being applied for. However, should they at a later stage be found to be applicable, an amended application form as well as written comments must be obtained and submitted to this Department confirming their applicability to the proposed development. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided.
- vi. The EIAr must provide the technical details for the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample for the minimum information required is listed under point 2 of the EIA information required for CSP facilities below.
- vii. The EIAr must provide the four corner coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- viii. The EIAr must provide the following:
 - Clear indication of the envisioned area for the proposed CSP facility; i.e. placing of parabolic troughs and all associated infrastructure should be mapped at an appropriate scale.
 - Clear description of all associated infrastructure. This description must include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Power lines;
 - Internal roads infrastructure; and;
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure such as laydown area, guard house and control room etc.
 - All necessary details regarding all possible locations and sizes of the proposed satellite substation and the main substation.
- ix. This Department requires comments from the South African SKA Project Office to be included in the EIAr.
- x. This Department requires comments from the Department of Agriculture to be included in the EIAr.
- xi. This Department requires comments from the Department of Water and Sanitation, from the Impact Management and Resource Management Directorates to be included in the EIAr

- xii. The following activities applied for may trigger Section 19 and Section 21 of the National Water Act No. 36 of 1998 as GN R. 983 Activities 12 and 19 was applied for. The hydrological assessment to be conducted must also assess the impacts on the surface hydrology of the proposed development area and must be included in the EIAr. The terms of reference for the study must include, *inter alia* the following:
- Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development;
 - Identification, assessment of all potential impacts to the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures; and,
 - Recommendations on the preferred placement of the parabolic troughs and all associated infrastructure and preference must be provided to the avoidance of the watercourses on the property.
- xiii. It is imperative that a reliable water source is secured for the success of this project. The Department requests proof of availability of water for the facility from the relevant authority.
- xiv. The EIAr must adequately assess and provide a comparative analysis for alternative water sources for the proposed development. The preferred water source alternative must further motivate the preferred technology choice for the facility.
- xv. A cumulative assessment must be undertaken for the sourcing of water as there are numerous other facilities in the region.
- xvi. Should a water abstraction point in the Orange River and a pipeline to pipe the water to the facility be required, the impact of these must be assessed.
- xvii. An Avifaunal and Bat Assessment must be conducted as part of the EIAr. The terms of reference for the study must include, *inter alia* the following:
- determine the impacts that the proposed activity (including the powerline) may have on avifauna and bats;
 - Must cover at a minimum the summer and winter seasons;
 - The assessment must include mitigation measures to discourage avifauna and bats from entering the solar field as well and limit nesting and breeding grounds within the solar field.
 - Assess the cumulative impact on avifauna and bats within the site and within the local area.
- xviii. An Agricultural Specialist Study must be conducted as part of the EIAr. The terms of reference for the study must include, *inter alia* the following:
- Assessment of the loss of agricultural land;
 - The current state of agricultural activities on land;
 - The impact of the loss of agricultural land within the property as well as the cumulative impact of the loss of agricultural land on the site and within the area.
- xix. Should in-house specialists be used for any specialist study, then the specialist study must be peer reviewed by external specialists (ecological, socio-economic and agriculture etc.).
- xx. The EIAr must assess all identified impacts including traffic and geotechnical impacts.
- xxi. The socio-economic report must provide a comparative analysis of the competing land uses on the property.
- xxii. The EIAr must also include a comments and response report in accordance with Appendix 2 h (iii) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- xxiii. The EIAr must include the detail inclusive of the PPP in accordance with Regulation 41 of the EIA Regulations.
- xxiv. Details of the future plans for the site and infrastructure after decommissioning in 20-30 years and the possibility of upgrading the proposed infrastructure to more advanced technologies.
- xxv. Information on services required on the site, e.g. sewage, refuse removal, water and electricity. Who will supply these services and has an agreement and confirmation of capacity been obtained? Proof of these agreements must be provided.
- xxvi. The EIAr must provide a detailed description of the need and desirability, not only providing motivation on the need for clean energy in South Africa of the proposed activity. The need and desirability must also indicate if the proposed development is needed in the region and if the current proposed location is desirable for the proposed activity compared to other sites.

- xxvii. A copy of the final site layout map and alternatives. All available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map. Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible e.g. roads. The layout map must indicate the following:
- Parabolic trough positions and its associated infrastructure;
 - Positions of the power island, steam turbine and generator, molten salt storage tanks, water storage reservoir and tanks, lined evaporation ponds and water supply pipeline;
 - Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible);
 - Wetlands, drainage lines, rivers, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected by the facility and its associated infrastructure;
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network;
 - All existing infrastructure on the site, especially roads;
 - Buffer areas;
 - Buildings, including accommodation; and
 - All “no-go” areas.
- xxviii. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- xxix. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- xxx. A shapefile of the preferred development layout/footprint must be submitted to this Department. The shapefile must be created using the Hartebeesthoek 94 Datum and the data should be in Decimal Degree Format using the WGS 84 Spheroid. The shapefile must include at a minimum the following extensions i.e. .shp; .shx; .dbf; .prj; and, .xml (Metadata file). If specific symbology was assigned to the file, then the .avl and/or the .lyr file must also be included. Data must be mapped at a scale of 1:10 000 (please specify if an alternative scale was used). The metadata must include a description of the base data used for digitizing. The shapefile must be submitted in a zip file using the EIA application reference number as the title. The shape file must be submitted to:

Postal Address:

Department of Environmental Affairs
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001

Physical address:

Environment House
473 Steve Biko Road
Pretoria

For Attention: Muhammad Essop
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Telephone Number: (012) 399 9406
Email Address: MEssop@environment.gov.za

The Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) to be submitted as part of the EIA must include the following:

- i. All recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the EIA and the specialist studies conducted.
- ii. The final site layout map.
- iii. Measures as dictated by the final site layout map and micro-siting.
- iv. An environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas and features identified during the EIA process.
- v. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.
- vi. An alien invasive management plan to be implemented during construction and operation of the facility. The plan must include mitigation measures to reduce the invasion of alien species and ensure that the continuous monitoring and removal of alien species is undertaken.
- vii. A plant rescue and protection plan which allows for the maximum transplant of conservation important species from areas to be transformed. This plan must be compiled by a vegetation specialist familiar with the site and be implemented prior to commencement of the construction phase.
- viii. A re-vegetation and habitat rehabilitation plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. Restoration must be undertaken as soon as possible after completion of construction activities to reduce the amount of habitat converted at any one time and to speed up the recovery to natural habitats.
- ix. An open space management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- x. A traffic management plan for the site access roads to ensure that no hazards would result from the increased truck traffic and that traffic flow would not be adversely impacted. This plan must include measures to minimize impacts on local commuters e.g. limiting construction vehicles travelling on public roadways during the morning and late afternoon commute time and avoid using roads through densely populated built-up areas so as not to disturb existing retail and commercial operations.
- xi. A storm water management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility. The plan must ensure compliance with applicable regulations and prevent off-site migration of contaminated storm water or increased soil erosion. The plan must include the construction of appropriate design measures that allow surface and subsurface movement of water along drainage lines so as not to impede natural surface and subsurface flows. Drainage measures must promote the dissipation of storm water run-off.
- xii. A fire management plan to be implemented during the construction and operation of the facility.
- xiii. An erosion management plan for monitoring and rehabilitating erosion events associated with the facility. Appropriate erosion mitigation must form part of this plan to prevent and reduce the risk of any potential erosion.
- xiv. An effective monitoring system to detect any leakage or spillage of all hazardous substances during their transportation, handling, use and storage. This must include precautionary measures to limit the possibility of oil and other toxic liquids from entering the soil or storm water systems.
- xv. Measures to protect hydrological features such as streams, rivers, pans, wetlands, dams and their catchments, and other environmental sensitive areas from construction impacts including the direct or indirect spillage of pollutants.

The EAP must provide detailed motivation if any of the above requirements is not required by the proposed development and not included in the EMPr.

The EAP must provide the final detailed Site Layout Plan as well as the final EMPr for approval with the final EIA as this Department needs to make a decision on the EA, EMPr and Layout Plan.

The EIA must include a **cumulative impact assessment** of the facility since there are other similar facilities in and around the proposed site as well as in the region. The specialist studies as outlined in the PoSEIA which is incorporated as part of the SR must also assess the facility in terms of potential cumulative impacts.

Please ensure that all the relevant Listing Notice activities are applied for, that the Listing Notice activities applied for are specific and that they can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description.

You are hereby reminded that should the EIAr fail to comply with the requirements of this acceptance letter, the project will be **refused** in accordance with Regulation 24(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations, and Regulations 43 and 44 with regard to the allowance of a comment period for interested and affected parties on all reports submitted to the competent authority for decision-making. The reports referred to are listed in Regulation 43(1).

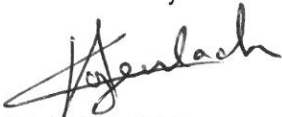
Furthermore, it must be reiterated that, should an application for Environmental Authorisation be subject to the provisions of Chapter II, Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999, then this Department will not be able to make nor issue a decision in terms of your application for Environmental Authorisation pending a letter from the pertinent heritage authority categorically stating that the application fulfils the requirements of the relevant heritage resources authority as described in Chapter II, Section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999. Comments from SAHRA and/or the provincial department of heritage must be provided in the EIAr.

You are requested to submit two (2) electronic copies (CD/DVD) and two (2) hard copies of the EIAr to the Department as per Regulation 23(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.

Please also find attached information that must be used in the preparation of the EIAr. This will enable the Department to speedily review the EIAr and make a decision on the application.

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

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environmental Affairs

Letter Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Date: 11/02/2016.

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|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| cc: Mr P Ndebele | FG Emvelo (Pty) Ltd | Email: pancho@emvelo.co.za |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|

A. EIA INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER (CSP) ENERGY FACILITIES

1. General site information

The following general site information is required:

- Descriptions of all affected farm portions
- 21 digit Surveyor General codes of all affected farm portions
- Copies of deeds of all affected farm portions
- Photos of areas that give a visual perspective of all parts of the site
- Photographs from sensitive visual receptors (tourism routes, tourism facilities, etc.)
- Concentrated Solar plant design specifications including:
 - Type of technology
 - Structure height
 - Surface area to be covered (including associated infrastructure such as roads)
 - Structure orientation
 - Laydown area dimensions (construction period and thereafter)
 - Generation capacity
- Generation capacity of the facility as a whole at delivery points

This information must be indicated on the first page of any Scoping or EIA document. It is also advised that it be double checked as there are too many mistakes in the applications that have been received that take too much time from authorities to correct.

2. Sample of technical details for the proposed facility

| Component | Description / dimensions |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Height of CSP panels | |
| Area of CSP | |
| Number of inverters required | |
| Area occupied by inverter / transformer stations / substations | |
| Capacity of on-site substation | |
| Area occupied by both permanent and construction laydown areas | |
| Area occupied by buildings | |
| Length of internal roads | |
| Width of internal roads | |
| Proximity to grid connection | |
| Height of fencing | |
| Type of fencing | |

3. Site maps and GIS information

Site maps and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- All affected farm portions must be indicated
- The exact site of the application must be indicated (the areas that will be occupied by the application)
- A status quo map/layer must be provided that includes the following:
 - Current use of land on the site including:
 - Buildings and other structures

- Agricultural fields
- Grazing areas
- Natural vegetation areas (natural veld not cultivated for the preceding 10 years) with an indication of the vegetation quality as well as fine scale mapping in respect of Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically endangered and endangered vegetation areas that occur on the site
- Bare areas which may be susceptible to soil erosion
- Cultural historical sites and elements
- Rivers, streams and water courses
- Ridgelines and 20m continuous contours with height references in the GIS database
- Fountains, boreholes, dams (in-stream as well as off-stream) and reservoirs
- High potential agricultural areas as defined by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Buffer zones (also where it is dictated by elements outside the site):
 - 500m from any irrigated agricultural land
 - 1km from residential areas
- Indicate isolated residential, tourism facilities on or within 1km of the site
- A slope analysis map/layer that include the following slope ranges:
 - Less than 8% slope (preferred areas for facility and infrastructure)
 - between 8% and 12% slope (potentially sensitive to facility and infrastructure)
 - between 12% and 14% slope (highly sensitive to facility and infrastructure)
 - steeper than 18 % slope (unsuitable for facility and infrastructure)
- A site development proposal map(s)/layer(s) that indicate:
 - Foundation footprint
 - Permanent laydown area footprint
 - Construction period laydown footprint
 - Internal roads indicating width (construction period width and operation period width) and with numbered sections between the other site elements which they serve (to make commenting on sections possible)
 - River, stream and water crossing of roads and cables indicating the type of bridging structures that will be used
 - Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint.
 - Cable routes and trench dimensions (where they are not along internal roads)
 - Connection routes to the distribution/transmission network (the connection must form part of the EIA even if the construction and maintenance thereof will be done by another entity such as ESKOM)
 - Cut and fill areas of power tower and heliostats sites along roads and at substation/transformer sites indicating the expected volume of each cut and fill
 - Borrow pits
 - Spoil heaps (temporary for topsoil and subsoil and permanently for excess material)
 - Buildings including accommodation

With the above information authorities will be able to assess the strategic and site impacts of the application.

4. Regional map and GIS information

The regional map and GIS information should include at least the following:

- All maps/information layers must also be provided in ESRI Shapefile format
- The map/layer must cover an area of 20km around the site
- Indicate the following:

- roads including their types (tarred or gravel) and category (national, provincial, local or private)
- Railway lines and stations
- Industrial areas
- Harbours and airports
- Electricity transmission and distribution lines and substations
- Pipelines
- Waters sources to be utilised during the construction and operational phases
- A visibility assessment of the areas from where the facility will be visible
- Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas
- Critically Endangered and Endangered vegetation areas
- Agricultural fields
- Irrigated areas
- An indication of new road or changes and upgrades that must be done to existing roads in order to get equipment onto the site including cut and fill areas and crossings of rivers and streams

5. Important stakeholders

Amongst other important stakeholders, comments from the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries must be obtained and submitted to the Department. Any application, documentation, notification etc. should be forwarded to the following officials:

Ms Mashudu Marubini
 Delegate of the Minister (Act 70 of 1970)
 E-mail: MashuduMa@daff.gov.za
 Tel 012- 319 7619

Ms Thoko Buthelezi
 AgriLand Liaison office
 E-mail: ThokoB@daff.gov.za
 Tel 012- 319 7634

All hardcopy applications / documentation should be forwarded to the following address:

Physical address:
 Delpen Building
 Cnr Annie Botha and Union Street
 Office 270
 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

Postal Address:
 Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 Private Bag X120
 Pretoria
 0001
 Attention: Delegate of the Minister Act 70 of 1970

In addition, comments must be requested from Eskom regarding grid connectivity and capacity. Request for comment must be submitted to:

Mr John Geeringh
Eskom Transmission
Megawatt Park D1Y38
PO Box 1091
JOHANNESBURG
2000

Tel: 011 516 7233
Fax: 086 661 4064
John.geeringh@eskom.co.za

B. AGRICULTURE STUDY REQUIREMENTS

- Detailed soil assessment of the site in question, incorporating a radius of 50 m surrounding the site, on a scale of 1:10 000 or finer. The soil assessment should include the following:
 - Identification of the soil forms present on site
 - The size of the area where a particular soil form is found
 - GPS readings of soil survey points
 - The depth of the soil at each survey point
 - Soil colour
 - Limiting factors
 - Clay content
 - Slope of the site
 - A detailed map indicating the locality of the soil forms within the specified area,
 - Size of the site
- Exact locality of the site
- Current activities on the site, developments, buildings
- Surrounding developments / land uses and activities in a radius of 500 m of the site
- Access routes and the condition thereof
- Current status of the land (including erosion, vegetation and a degradation assessment)
- Possible land use options for the site
- Water availability, source and quality (if available)
- Detailed descriptions of why agriculture should or should not be the land use of choice
- Impact of the change of land use on the surrounding area
- A shape file containing the soil forms and relevant attribute data as depicted on the map.

C. ASTRONOMY GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGE ACT, 2007 (ACT NO. 21 OF 2007)

The purpose of the Act is to preserve the geographic advantage areas that attract investment in astronomy. The entire Northern Cape Province excluding the Sol Plaatjie Municipality had been declared an astronomy advantage area. The Northern Cape optical and radio telescope sites were declared core astronomy advantage areas. The Act allowed for the declaration of the Southern Africa Large Telescope (SALT), MeerKAT and Square Kilometre Array (SKA) as astronomy and related scientific endeavours that had to be protected.

You are requested to indicate the applicability of the Astronomy Geographic Advantage Act, Act No. 21 of 2007 on the application in the BAR/EIR. You must obtain comments from the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT) if the proposed development is situated within a declared astronomy advantage area.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/868

Enquiries: Ms Mmamohale Kabasa

Telephone: (012) 399 9420 **E-mail:** MKabasa@henvironment.gov.za

Ms Karen Jodas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
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Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: karen@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Jodas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 50 MW ILANGA CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY TO BE KNOWN AS ILANGA CSP 4 ON PORTION 2 OF THE FARM MATJIESRIVIER NO. 41 EAST OF THE TOWN OF UPINGTON WITHIN THE KHARA HAIS LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The draft Environmental Impact Assessment report (EIAr) dated April 2016 and received by this Department on 21 April 2016 refers.

This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final EIAr, an amended application form must be submitted. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- iii. The purpose of the proposed development is indicated as for purposes of facilitating the increase in capacity of the authorised Karoshoek LFTT 2 (14/12/16/3/3/2/295).
- iv. Due to the number of similar applications in the area, and this being an "expansion" of the approved projects, the assessment must include the impacts of the approved projects, and then provide the impacts of the proposed expansion developments. This must be done for all impacts identified and assessed, as well as the specialist studies.
- v. All the specialist assessments must include a cumulative environmental impact statement. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be indicated and quantified, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
- vi. Identified cumulative impacts associated with the proposed development must be rated with the significance rating methodology approved with the acceptance of the scoping report.
- vii. The cumulative impacts significance rating must inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
- viii. The EIAr must indicate the impact of the approved facility, then quantify and assess the impact of the expansion.
- ix. The preferred layout plan with the preferred substation, service routes, and construction camp must be indicated in the final EIAr. A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map must also be included in the final EIAr.

- x. The Layout Plan must indicate the area of the expanded footprint; the approved footprint as well as the combined project footprints. This must be clearly demarcated.
- xi. Should any of the proposed project footprint fall within the authorised footprint, this must be removed, as the Department cannot issue an EA on a footprint with an existing valid EA. Should this not be possible, the EAs for the approved sites must be lapsed, and this assessment must assess the impacts of the larger site.
- xii. Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the preferred layout alternative. Specifically, the solar field, power block and associated services must be removed from all sensitive areas as recommended by the specialists.
- xiii. Condition xii of the acceptance letter signed 15 February 2016 required that a surface water assessment of the study area be conducted. This was not done. The ecological study identifies that the study area is affected by non-perennial drainage lines and pans and these were not assessed in terms of the terms of reference indicated in the acceptance letter signed 15 February 2016. The water resources report attached to Appendix F of the draft EIAr does not assess the surface hydrological state of the study area but solely focuses on the impacts of abstraction of water from the Orange River. The hydrological impact assessment must address, inter alia the following:
 - Identification, assessment of all potential impacts on the water courses and suggestion of mitigation measures;
 - Identification and sensitivity rating of all surface water courses for the impact phase of the proposed development; and,
 - Recommendations on the preferred placement of the parabolic troughs and all associated infrastructure and preference must be provided to the avoidance of the watercourses on the property.
- xiv. The Soils and Agricultural Study prepared by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd dated September 2015 and peer reviewed by ARC-Institute for Soil, Climate and Water in April 2016 does not provide significance rating of cumulative impacts associated with the loss of agricultural land on the site and within the area as required in the acceptance of scoping report signed 15 February 2016. As such, as requested in the acceptance of the SR, the soil and agricultural study must be done.
- xv. The format of the peer-review must address the following:
 - Acceptability of the ToR
 - Is the methodology clearly explained and acceptable?
 - Evaluate the validity of the findings (review data evidence)
 - Discuss the mitigation measures and recommendations
 - Evaluate the appropriateness of the reference literature
 - Is the article well-written and easy to understand?
 - Identify any short comings.
- xvi. It must be noted that this Department in its acceptance of SR letter requested that the avifaunal assessment cover the summer and winter seasons. Upon review of this report, the specialist conducted a site visit from 31 October – 07 November 2015 and 29 February – 09 March 2016 which is deemed as spring and autumn. As such, the study must be conducted within the seasons as requested by the DEA. Furthermore, no reason or motivation was provided for the deviation from the acceptance of the SR.
- xvii. The specialist studies to be conducted must comply with Appendix 6 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and proof of compliance must be provided in the final EIAr.
- xviii. This Department requires comments from the Department of Water and Sanitation as requested in point xi of the acceptance of SR. Proof of obtaining comments from those specific directorates within the Department must be provided.
- xix. The draft EIAr does not provide proof of compliance with Regulation 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the EIAr from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed and included in the Final EIAr. Proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments and proof that the proposed development was advertised in at least one local newspaper.
- xx. In their comments dated 10 February 2016 for the Ilanga CSP 7, 8 and 9 by the same applicant, assessed by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd, and located on the same farm portion as Ilanga CSP 3; the

Department Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) requested a precautionary approach for the cumulative impacts assessment of protected trees in the area (*Boscia* and *Acacia* species). The DAFF was of the view that there is an underestimation of the significance of the residual cumulative impacts on the protected floral species and that there is a possibility that a biodiversity offset may be triggered. As such, the final EIA must take DAFF's recommendations into consideration. Further, the final EIA must provide proof of compliance with these recommendations as well as final comments from DAFF.

- xxi. The EMP must include a provision to audit the effectiveness of the mitigation measures and recommendations for amongst others the following: grievance incidents; waste management, alien and open space management, re-vegetation and rehabilitation, plant rescue and protection and traffic and transportation. The results must be made available to the Department and relevant competent authority on request and must be part of monitoring and audit reports.
- xxii. The EMP must identify and indicate the applicable section of the National Heritage Act (Act 20 of 1999).
- xxiii. The EMP must indicate the management interventions table referred to in the last paragraph on page 5 of the draft EMP.
- xxiv. Please note that the final EIA must comply with all conditions of the acceptance of the scoping report signed on 15 February 2016 and must address all comments contained in this comments letter.
- xxv. In terms of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the report must include an undertaking under oath or affirmation by the EAP in relation to:
 - the correctness of the information provided in the reports;
 - the inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs;
 - the inclusion of inputs and recommendations from the specialist reports where relevant;
 - any information provided by the EAP to I&APs; and,
 - responses by the EAP to comments or inputs made by I&APs.
- xxvi. The EIA must provide the technical details of the proposed facility in a table format as well as their description and/or dimensions. A sample of the minimum information required was listed under point 2 of the EIA information required in the acceptance of SR.
- xxvii. You are further reminded that the final EIA to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIA in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.
- xxviii. Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).
- xxix. Failure to comply with the requirements of the acceptance of the SR, the comments of this letter as well as the requirements of the EIA Regulations, 2014, a negative Environmental Authorisation will be issued by this Department.

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.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs
Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach
Designation: Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments
Date: 23/05/2016

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