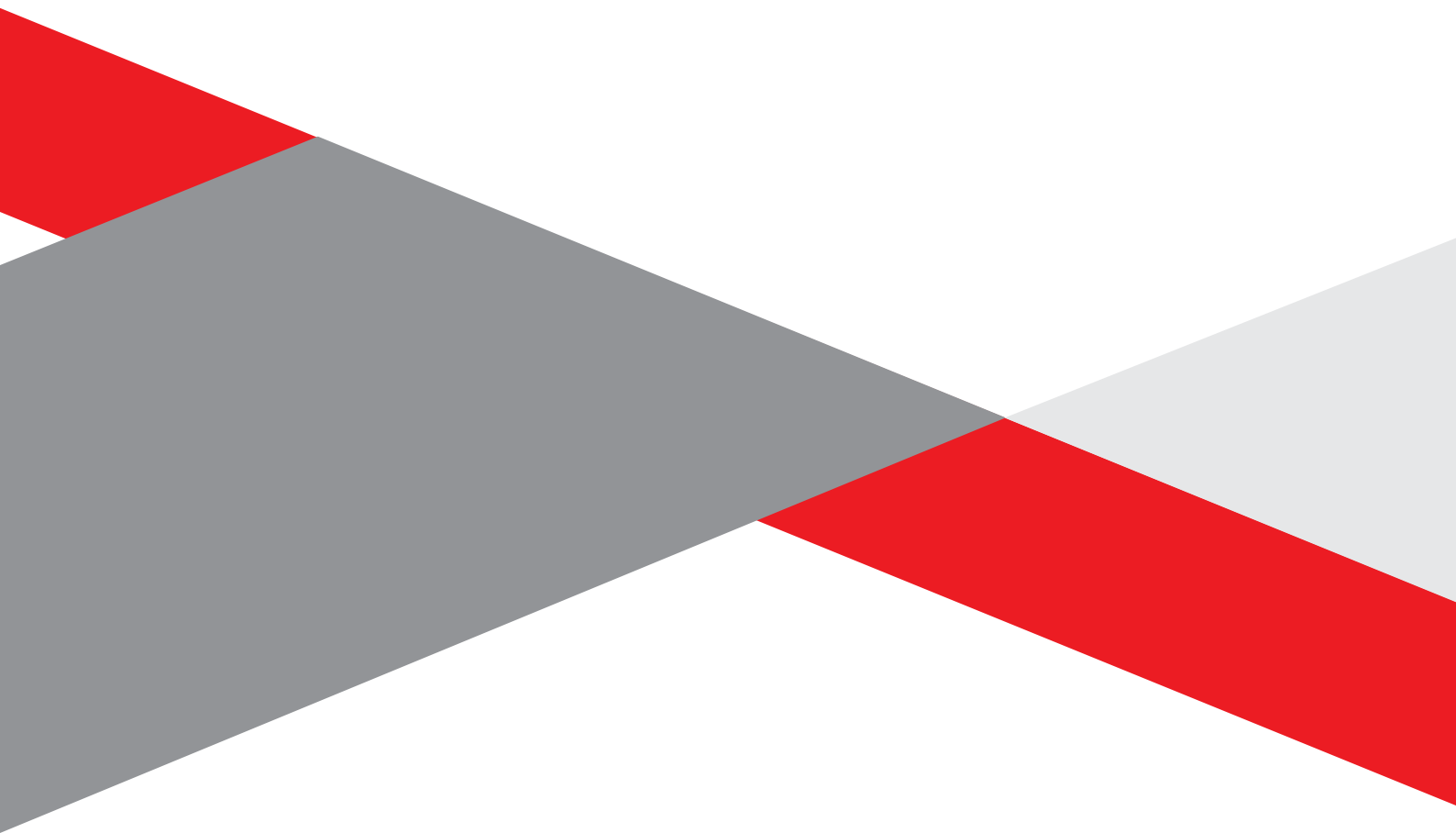


# **APPENDIX C6**

## **COMMENTS RECEIVED**





## public works & roads

Department:  
Public Works and Roads  
North West Provincial Government  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Modiri Molema Road  
Old Parliament Complex  
Mmabatho, 2735  
Private Bag X 2080, Mmabatho,

### CHIEF DIRECTORATE: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Tel.: +27 (18) 388 1398  
Email: [Sitase@nwpg.gov.za](mailto:Sitase@nwpg.gov.za)  
Enq: K A Sitase

#### DIRECTORATE: PLANNING AND DESIGN

Ref: R15\_11-1-1-3-1\_SE3993-KIARA PV Cluster & Associated Infrastructure

#### SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148

Sunninghill

2157

For attention: **Nondumiso Bulunga**

**COMMENTS/ CONSENT IN TERMS OF ACT NO 21 OF 1940 AND ROADS ORDINANCE NO 22 OF 1957 AS AMENDED: NOTICE FOR CONSULTATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SEVEN (7) PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (i.e. KIARA PV 1; KIARA PV 2; KIARA PV 3; KIARA PV 4; KIARA PV 5; KIARA PV 6 & KIARA PV 7) ON SITES LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 16KM NORTH-EAST OF THE TOWN OF LICHTENBURG IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE. THE PROJECTS ARE LOCATED IN THE DITSOBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE.**

**AFFECTED PROVINCIAL ROAD (S)** : D379\_040  
**MUNICIPALITY** : DITSOBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
**TOWN/ TOWNSHIP/ FARM** : PORTION 2 AND THE REMAINING EXTENT OF THE FARM HOLLAAGTE NO. 8 JP  
**REGISTRATION NUMBERS** :  
**CLIENT(S)/ APPLICANT** : VOLTALIA SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD

Your communication dated **24 June 2022** has reference. This consent is issued in terms of the **Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act No 21 of 1940** and **Roads Ordinance No 22 of 1957** as amended.

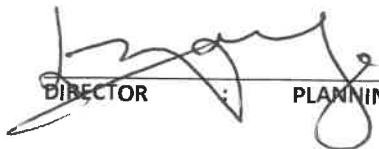
There is no objection to the proposed development, subject to the strict adherence of the attached **Specific and Special Conditions** and should form part of the proposed planning/ development, also that the conditions/requirements listed below are imposed and met in all respects by the applicant:



**NOTE :** A separate documentation (i.e. **Wayleave Approval**) will be issued for the approval for the **proposed New Power line to Watershed** (i.e. **132kV/ 275 kV Power lines cables**), either crossing and or running parallel to the provincial road(s).

**A written confirmation of acceptance of the attached conditions is required. In the event of not receiving a written acceptance of conditions, the approval is withdrawn and this approval is cancelled.**

Yours faithfully

  
DIRECTOR : PLANNING AND DESIGN

**LA MAFUNE**

20/7/2022  
DATE

cc. : Mr A Lund, Tel. No.018-6323032, Private Bag X12030, Lichtenburg, 2740; 018-6326731

**Attached :** Locality Map\_Kiara PV Facilities and Google\_SE3993-Kiara PV Facilities

: Sketch Plan\_34m Rd Reserve\_Building Line Relax\_Buildings

: Sketch Plan\_25m Rd Reserve\_Building Line Relax\_Buildings



## **GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

**NB:** This wayleave is granted in favour of: **VOLTALIA SOUTH AFRICA (PTY) LTD.**

### **1. EXISTING AND FUTURE/ PLANNED PROVINCIAL ROADS**

The existing and future/ planned provincial road(s) should be excluded from the proposed development(s). For more information see the attached Locality Map/ Drawings: **Locality Map\_Kiara PV Facilities.**

### **2. ACCESS TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The existing access(es) to the affected land i.e. **Locality Map\_Kiara PV Facilities** will be used for the above-mentioned development(s).

No additional access (es) will be allowed to Provincial Road(s) **D379\_040** at all, without the written approval of the Controlling Authority (Department of Public Works and Roads).

### **3. NOTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT**

The **Department of Public Works and Roads (dpwr)** should be notified (with appropriate detailed plans) about any of the intention or planning and before the commencement thereof of the following: -.

- a. Construction of Permanent or Temporary Access(es) from any of the Provincial roads.
- b. Construction of any structures e.g. Buildings along the any of the Provincial roads.
- c. Closing and or Deviation of section(s) of the Provincial roads.
- d. Erection of Advertisement along the Provincial roads.
- e. Working inside the Road Reserves of any of the Provincial roads.
- f. Temporary or Permanent Closure of Traffic on either of the affected roads.
- g. Erection and or Construction of Overhead and or Underground Services e.g. *Water & Sewerage pipe lines, Electrical and Telephone Cable Lines across or parallel to the provincial roads.*
- h. Trees, Shrubs, Cultivated Grass, Gates or Road Fencing, and or any Road Signage and Furniture to be removed or damaged within the Provincial Road Reserve. If such assets were removed or damaged you will have to replace them to the entire satisfaction of the **Department of Public Works and Roads.**



#### 4. BUILDING LINE

Except where the approval has been granted for services crossing and or development along the provincial road (s), it may be in terms of **Section 9 of the Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act (Act 21 of 1940, as amended)** not to be laid nearer than **95m** from the centre line of the Road Reserve or within a **500m** radius measured from the centre line of the junction of a building restriction Road Reserve (except a National/ Municipal and or Private road), without the specific permission of the **Department of Public Works and Roads**. For any **SPECIAL/ SPECIFIC CONDITIONS** see **Clause 5** below.

#### 5. **SPECIAL/ SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

Your proposed development is hereby granted subject to the strict adherence of the conditions/requirements listed below and all Safety Measures by the applicant/ and or his contractors/ suppliers:

##### a. **ABNORMAL TRUCKS/ EQUIPMENTS**

Department of Public Works and Roads should also be notified with any of the intention of **transporting abnormal trucks/ equipments** on any of the above stated provincial road(s).

##### b. **BLASTING/ EXPLOSIVE OF ROCKS**

Any unstable conditions encountered or any rock requiring blasting to be reported directly and immediately to the *Departmental Roads Engineer/ Manager*.

Blasting to be done in accordance with the current applicable Explosives Regulations/ Acts and possible damage to the road must be excluded as far as possible.

Any damage to the road caused by unstable soil conditions (subsidence, etc.) or blasting must be repaired to the satisfaction of the: *Departmental Roads Engineer/ Manager*.



**c. INDEMNITY OF THE PREMIER AGAINST CLAIMS**

- i. You indemnify the **PREMIER OF NORTH WEST** and exempt him from any claim or damage which may be instituted or suffered by any person, including legal costs, as a result of the laying or erection of any service or any other works caused or erected by you, or as a result of negligence on your part to protect or maintain the service or other works caused by any other person unless you can prove negligence on the part of Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport or its officials.
- ii. The Department of Public Works and Roads will not be liable for any damage suffered by the applicant as a result of the development, operations carried out on road construction or road maintenance or any other operations whatsoever, unless negligence on the part of Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport or its officials can be proved.
- iii. The applicant shall indemnify the Department of Public Works and Roads or its officials and workers against any claims arising out of any death of or injuries to any person or damage to any property whatsoever (including services such as water pipes, telephone and or electric cables, etc,) caused by or resulting from the activities of the applicant in the road reserve.

**d. ROAD RESERVE WIDTHS OF THE AFFECTED PROVINCIAL ROADS**

Provision must be made for the following road reserves/ streets and must be excluded from the proposed development:

- i) Road **D379\_040** with the varying road reserve widths of about **34m** and **25m**.

**e. BUILDING LINE RELAXATION**

The *Department of Public Works and Roads (DPWR)* is hereby grant the **minimum relaxation of the building line** from the **Standard 95m** as stated by **Clause 4: Standard Building Line** above as follows.

Also see the attached *Sketch Plans Road Reserve Widths*.

- i. **Road Reserve Width of 34m** : The Building Line Relaxation is **45m** from the centre of the Road Reserve; (i.e. **28m from road reserve boundary**).
- ii. **Road Reserve Width of 25m** : The Building Line Relaxation is **45m** from the centre of the Road Reserve; (i.e. **32m from road reserve boundary**).



**f. LAND USE ALONG THE ROAD(S)**

- i. No structure (Poles, Struts, Stays, Manholes, etc.) will be erected and or allowed inside any of the provincial road reserve(s), without the approval from this Department indicating the correct location/ position of the proposed development.
- ii. Land use of even build on the lines of no access shall be in accordance with the requirements of Executive Committee Resolution 1112 of 26 June 1978.
- iii. The applicant shall not erect/ built either permanent or temporarily structures, and or any informal structures along the above-mentioned provincial roads inside the road reserve until he has obtain written approval from the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads (Dpwr) to do so

**6 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COST OF (ACOUSTIC SCREEING) NOISE BARRIER**

The applicant shall be responsible for any costs involved in the erection of Acoustic Screening (Noise Barrier).

**7 ACCEPTANCE AND DISPOSAL OF STORM WATER**

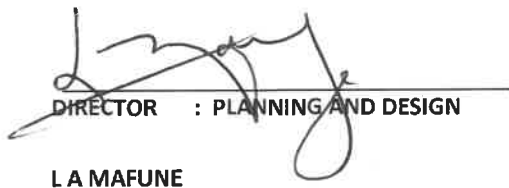
- 7.1** In terms of **Section 84 of the road Ordinance, 1957**, the applicant shall arrange the drainage of the proposed development(s) in such way that it fit in with the drainage of the provincial Road(s) **D379\_040**, taking into account the capacity of the system.
- 7.2** The applicant/ local authority or whoever responsible for the drainage of the proposed development(s) shall receive and dispose all the storm water running from the road or being diverted from the road.
- 7.3** The state or the Provincial Administration will not be responsible for any damage caused by arising from such storm water.
- 7.4** Where, in the opinion of the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads, the system for the above-mentioned road(s) is too small to cope with any increased volume of the storm as a result of the establishment or proposed development(s), the applicant/ local authority (whoever responsible for the drainage) shall be responsible for the cost of installing a larger drainage system for the provincial Road(s) **D379\_040**.



- 7.5** The applicant/ local authority or whoever responsible for the drainage of the proposed development(s) shall built/ construct the drainage scheme at own cost simultaneously with the construction of the access (es).

It will be appreciated if you would kindly ensure that all the above conditions are included in the proposed and intended development(s). Should you have any question and or clarification in regard to the above-mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact this Department.

Yours faithfully

  
DIRECTOR : PLANNING AND DESIGN  
L A MAFUNE

20/7/2022  
DATE

**Attached** : Locality Maps:-

- : Google\_NW 30-5-1-1-2\_13314 PR
- : Locality Map\_NW 30-5-1-1-2\_13314 PR
- : Sketch Plan\_16m Rd Reserve Building Line Relax\_Mining
- : Sketch Plan\_32m Rd Reserve Building Line Relax\_Mining



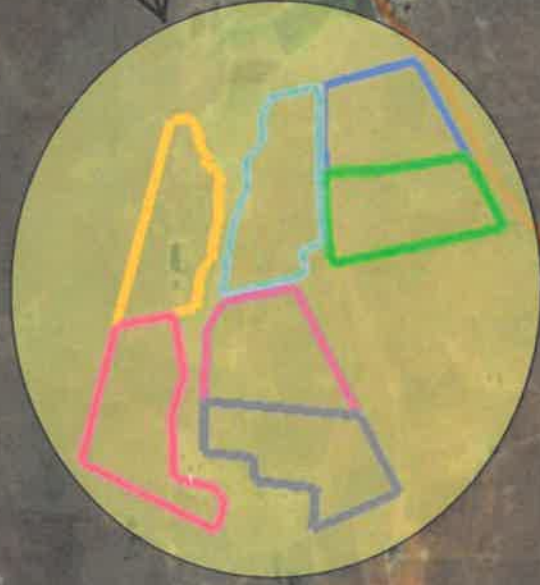


# Google\_SE3993-KIARA PV Facilities

Write a description for your map.

## Legend

- Farm Portion Boundary
- Kiara PV1 Facility
- Kiara PV2 Facility
- Kiara PV3 Facility
- Kiara PV4 Facility
- Kiara PV5 Facility
- Kiara PV6 Facility
- Kiara PV7 Facility
- National Road
- Paved Road
- Un-Paved Road

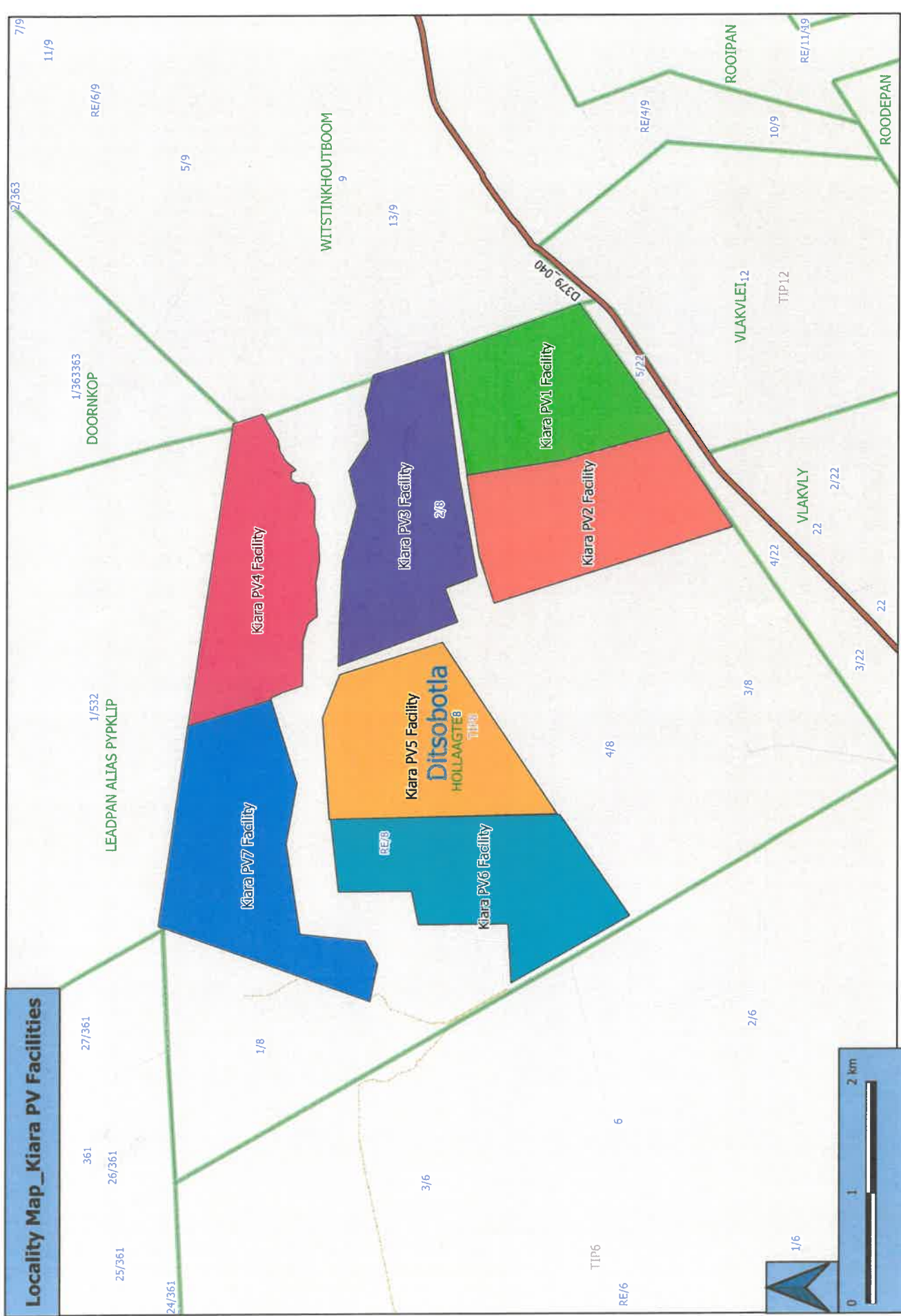


7 km

Google Earth

Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies  
Image © 2022 CNES/Airbus

Locality Map\_Kiara PV Facilities





## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA 0001 · Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2171,2172,2173,2174

**Enquiries:** Ms Thulisile Nyalunga

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9405 **E-mail:** [TNyalunga@dffe.gov.za](mailto:TNyalunga@dffe.gov.za)

Ms Rendani Rasivhetshela  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2191

Cellphone Number: (011) 656 3237  
Email Address: [rendani@savannahsa.com](mailto:rendani@savannahsa.com)

### PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Rasivhetshela

### COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORTS FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 130MW KIARA PV1, PV2, PV3 AND PV4 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR LICHTENBURG WITHIN THE DITSOBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCE

The Applications for Environmental Authorisation and the Draft Scoping Reports (SR) dated June 2022 and received by the Department on 24 June 2022, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Reports:

#### **(a) Listed Activities and Application Form**

- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. Please provide the details, capacities and thresholds of the specific project infrastructure, not a repetition of the listed activity thresholds (i.e., a description of the dangerous goods facility infrastructure, capacity and location, and the length and width of the main access roads.
- It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. Please also ensure that the potential impacts on the affected Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas are fully assessed in the final EIAR.
- 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>.

**(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:

- The proposed location of the PV arrays and associated infrastructure of the proposed 130MW Kiara PV1, PV2, PV3 and PV4 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facilities;
- The location of the proposed Kiara PV1, PV2, PV3 and PV4 solar PV facilities in relation to the cluster of the 3 additional planned PV facilities (i.e., Kiara PV5, PV6 and Kiara PV7);
- The proposed grid infrastructure connecting the PV facilities to the existing Watershed Substation, overlain by the sensitivity map;
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed);
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All “no-go” areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- Google maps will not be accepted.

**(c) Public Participation Process**

- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department’s Biodiversity Section: [BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za)) 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 must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments (pre and post submission of the draft SR) for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP’s comments.

**(d) Specialist Assessments to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

- Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expert advice.
- It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species),



have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols.** Please note further that the protocols require the specialists' to be registered with SACNASP.

- Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department's Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements/protocols recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report per the requirements of the Protocols.

**(e) Cumulative Assessment to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

- Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
  - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
  - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
  - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
  - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

**(f) Environmental Management Programme**

- The EMPr must include the following:
- It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.
- Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

**General**

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:


*"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"*

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, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of 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 sincerely



**Ms Millicent Solomons**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo**

**Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects**

**Date: 25/07/2022**

cc:	Mr Armandt Andre Joubert	Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: a.joubert@voltalia.com
	Ms Ouma Skosana	North-West Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism	Email: oskosana@nwpg.gov.za
	Mr Mali Ledwaba	Ditsobotla Local Municipality	Email: ledwabamali@gmail.com



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2175

**Enquiries:** Ms Mathodi Mogorosi

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9388 **E-mail:** MMogorosi@dffe.gov.za

Ms Rendani Rasivhetshela  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2157

**Telephone Number:** (011) 656 3237  
**Email Address:** [rendani@savannahsa.com](mailto:rendani@savannahsa.com)

### PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Rasivhetshela

### COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 130MW KIARA PV5 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR LICHTENBURG WITHIN THE DITSBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated June 2022 and received by the Department on 24 June 2022, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

#### (a) Listed Activities

- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. When including activities in the application form and Scoping Report, take note of the word **OR** in between the activities (sub-activities). Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.
- It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. Please also ensure that the potential impacts on the affected Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas are fully assessed in the final EIAr.
- 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>.

**(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
- The proposed location of the PV arrays and associated infrastructure of the proposed 130MW Kiara PV5 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility;
- The location of the proposed Kiara PV5 solar PV facility in relation to the cluster of the six additional planned PV facilities (i.e., Kiara PV1, Kiara PV2, Kiara PV3, Kiara PV4 and Kiara PV6 and Kiara PV7);
- The proposed grid infrastructure connecting the PV facilities to the existing Watershed Substation, overlain by the sensitivity map;
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed);
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All “no-go” areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- Google maps will not be accepted.

**(c) Public Participation Process**

- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: [BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za)) 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 must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments (pre and post submission of the draft SR) for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

**(d) Specialist Assessments to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

- Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in**



**accordance with these protocols.** Please note further that the protocols require the specialists' to be registered with SACNASP.

- Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department's Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements/protocols recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report per the requirements of the Protocols.

**(e) Cumulative Assessment to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

- Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
  - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
  - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
  - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
  - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

**(f) Environmental Management Programme**

- The EMPr must include the following:
- It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.
- Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

**General**

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

*"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"*

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, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of 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 sincerely



**Ms Milicent Solomons**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo**

**Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects**

**Date: 25/07/2022**

cc:	A Joubert	Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:a.joubert@voltalia.com">a.joubert@voltalia.com</a>
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## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2176

**Enquiries:** Ms Mathodi Mogorosi

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9388 **E-mail:** MMogorosi@dfffe.gov.za

Ms Rendani Rasivhetshela  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2157

**Telephone Number:** (011) 656 3237  
**Email Address:** [rendani@savannahsa.com](mailto:rendani@savannahsa.com)

### PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Rasivhetshela

### COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 130MW KIARA PV6 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR LICHTENBURG WITHIN THE DITSBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated June 2022 and received by the Department on 24 June 2022, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

#### (a) Listed Activities

- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. When including activities in the application form and Scoping Report, take note of the word **OR** in between the activities (sub-activities). Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.
- It is imperative that the relevant authorities are continuously involved throughout the environmental impact assessment process, as the development property possibly falls within geographically designated areas in terms of Listing Notice 3 Activities. Written comments must be obtained from the relevant authorities (or proof of consultation if no comments were received) and submitted to this Department. In addition, a graphical representation of the proposed development within the respective geographical areas must be provided. Please also ensure that the potential impacts on the affected Critical Biodiversity Areas and Ecological Support Areas are fully assessed in the final EIAr.
- 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>.

**(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
- The proposed location of the PV arrays and associated infrastructure of the proposed 130MW Kiara PV6 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility;
- The location of the proposed Kiara PV6 solar PV facility in relation to the cluster of the six additional planned PV facilities (i.e., Kiara PV1, Kiara PV2, Kiara PV3, Kiara PV4 and Kiara PV5 and Kiara PV7);
- The proposed grid infrastructure connecting the PV facilities to the existing Watershed Substation, overlain by the sensitivity map;
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed);
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All “no-go” areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- Google maps will not be accepted.

**(c) Public Participation Process**

- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: [BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za)) 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 must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments (pre and post submission of the draft SR) for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format which reflects the details of the I&APs and date of comments received, actual comments received, and response provided. Please ensure that comments made by I&APs are comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as “Noted” is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

**(d) Specialist Assessments to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

- Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of turbine positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
- The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- It is further brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were promulgated in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e. “the Protocols”), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020 (i.e. protocols for terrestrial plant and animal species), have come into effect. **Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in**

**accordance with these protocols.** Please note further that the protocols require the specialists' to be registered with SACNASP.

- Please include a table in the report, summarising the specialist studies required by the Department's Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies were conducted or not, and a column with motivation for any studies not conducted. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements/protocols recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report per the requirements of the Protocols.

**(e) Cumulative Assessment to be conducted in the EIA Phase**

- Should there be any other similar projects within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
  - Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
  - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
  - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
  - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

**(f) Environmental Management Programme**

- The EMPr must include the following:
- It is drawn to your attention that for substation and overhead electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, when such facilities trigger activity 11 or 47 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations Listing Notice 1 of 2014, as amended, and any other listed and specified activities necessary for the realisation of such facilities, the generic Environmental Management Programme, contemplated in Regulations 19(4) must be used and submitted with the final report over and above the EMPr for the facility.
- Further to the above, you are required to comply with the content of the EMPr in terms of Appendix 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014, as amended.

**General**

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

*"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"*

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, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of 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 sincerely



**Ms Millicent Solomons**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo**

**Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects**

**Date: 25/07/2022**

cc:	A Joubert	Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:a.joubert@voltalia.com">a.joubert@voltalia.com</a>
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## forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

**DFFE Reference:** 14/12/16/3/3/2/2177

**Enquiries:** Ms Mathodi Mogorosi

**Telephone:** (012) 399 9388 **E-mail:** MMogorosi@dfffe.gov.za

Ms Rendani Rasivhetshela  
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
PO Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2157

**Telephone Number:** (011) 656 3237  
**Email Address:** [rendani@savannahsa.com](mailto:rendani@savannahsa.com)

### PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Ms Rasivhetshela

### COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE 130MW KIARA PV7 PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NEAR LICHTENBURG WITHIN THE DITSBOTLA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCE

The Application for Environmental Authorisation and Draft Scoping Report (SR) dated June 2022 and received by the Department on 24 June 2022, refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the Final Scoping Report:

#### (a) Listed Activities

- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure (including thresholds) as described in the project description. Only activities (and sub-activities) applicable to the development must be applied for and assessed. When including activities in the application form and Scoping Report, take note of the word **OR** in between the activities (sub-activities). Furthermore, kindly ensure that the latest listed activities, as amended in 2021, are applied for.
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**(b) Layout & Sensitivity Maps**

- Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:
- The proposed location of the PV arrays and associated infrastructure of the proposed 130MW Kiara PV7 Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility;
- The location of the proposed Kiara PV7 solar PV facility in relation to the cluster of the six additional planned PV facilities (i.e., Kiara PV1, Kiara PV2, Kiara PV3, Kiara PV4 and Kiara PV5 and Kiara PV6);
- The proposed grid infrastructure connecting the PV facilities to the existing Watershed Substation, overlain by the sensitivity map;
- All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed);
- The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
- Buffer areas; and
- All “no-go” areas.
- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring renewable energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.
- Google maps will not be accepted.

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- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received on the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's Biodiversity Section: [BCAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:BCAdmin@environment.gov.za)) 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 must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of the approved public participation plan and Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
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Yours sincerely



**Ms Milicent Solomons**

**Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations**

**Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment**

**Letter signed by: Ms Sindiswa Dlomo**

**Designation: Deputy Director: National Infrastructure Projects**

**Date: 25/07/2002**

cc:	A Joubert	Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd	Email: <a href="mailto:a.joubert@voltalia.com">a.joubert@voltalia.com</a>
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Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

Tel: 0214624502

Email: [ekatsetse@sahra.org.za](mailto:ekatsetse@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 18917

Date: Thursday July 28, 2022

Page No: 1

## **Interim Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

The Applicant, Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd, is proposing the construction of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility (known as the Kiara PV 1 facility) located on a site approximately 16km north east of the town of Lichtenburg in the North West Province. The solar PV facility will comprise several arrays of PV panels and associated infrastructure and will have a contracted capacity of up to 100MW. The development area is situated within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality within the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. The site is accessible via an existing gravel road which provides access to the development area. The development area for the PV facility and associated infrastructure will be located on Portion 2 of the Farm Hollaagte No. 8. Six additional PV facilities (Kiara PV 2, Kiara PV 3, Kiara PV 4, Kiara PV 5, Kiara PV 6, Kiara PV 7) are concurrently being considered on the project site (within Portion 2 of the Farm Hollaagte 8 and the Remaining Extent of the Farm Hollaagte No. 8) and are assessed through separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. A facility development area (approximately 165ha) as well as grid connection solution have been considered in the Scoping phase. The infrastructure associated with this PV facility includes: PV modules and mounting structures Inverters and transformers Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Site and internal access roads (up to 8m wide) Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage. Temporary and permanent laydown area Grid connection solution will include: Facility Substation Eskom Switching Station A 275kV powerline (16.6km in length) (either single or double circuit), to connect the PV facility to the Watershed MTS. The 132kV powerline from the on-site substation to the collector substation is approximately 1.2 km long.

Savannah Environmental has been appointed by Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Kiara PV 1 facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 2 of the Farm Hollaagte No. 8 near Lichtenburg Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Ngaka Modiri Molemela District Municipality, North West Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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

107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will entail the construction of a Solar PV facility with associated infrastructure that includes solar PV array comprising PV modules and mounting structures, inverters and transformers, cabling between the panels 132kV onsite facility substation/ 132kV power line from onsite substation to the switching collector substation, Battery Energy Storage System, site internal access roads (upto 8m wide), site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop area for maintenance and storage, temporary and permanent laydown areas etc...

CTS Heritage have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Levin, J. May 2022. Heritage Screener: Proposed Development of the Kiara PV 1 Facility and Associated Infrastructure, North West Province.*

The specialist undertook a desktop survey of the larger project area and development footprint through a literature review of previous heritage impact assessment studies (Van Schalkwyk 1995, 2021; Van der Walt 2014; Levin 2021). Some of these reports include field assessments such as the (1995, 2019, & 2021) reports detail the broad area of Lichtenburg as heavily disturbed by previous mining, historical and contemporary agricultural activities. No heritage resources were identified during the 2019 field survey. While the 2014 and 2021 field assessments identified lithic scatters which were interpreted as evidence of MSA and LSA factories on which mobile groups practicing trans-humanism may have been attracted to the area by the abundance of chert for the production of stone tools. It is also noted that in some areas burrowing animals brought MSA artefacts to the surface where the sand cover was more than a metre and half thick and the possibility of subsurface material cannot be excluded.

It is likely that a similar archaeological signature will be present within the area proposed for this development and as such, a field survey to assess impacts to archaeological heritage resources is recommended.

The heritage screener also notes that the proposed development area is located in a geological deposit belonging to the Monte Christo Formation of the Chuniespoort Group. The Monte Christo Formation is within the Malmani Subgroup. These deposits have a very high sensitivity for impacts to palaeontological resources. This group is known to contain a range of shallow marine to intertidal stromatolites (domes, columns etc) and organic-walled microfossils. In addition, it is within this group that fossiliferous Late Cenozoic cave breccias

# Proposed development of the Kiara PV 1 Facility and Associated Infrastructure, North West Province

Our Ref:



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Department of Arts and Culture

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South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

Tel: 0214624502

Email: [ekatsetse@sahra.org.za](mailto:ekatsetse@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 18917

Date: Thursday July 28, 2022

Page No: 3

have been identified, such as within the Cradle of Humankind region. A development located approximately 15 km away within the same geology was surveyed on foot by Bamford et al. 2019 as part of the Heritage Impact Assessment completed for the Lichtenburg PV facilities. The conclusion and recommendations in the 2019 PIA by Bamford were that after a thorough assessment the impact of the development was found to be negligible to extremely low. The same conclusion is drawn for the proposed project.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA's APM Unit acknowledges receipt of the DSR and Heritage Screener and the recommendations contained therein. SAHRA supports the recommendations of the specialist and requests that the following is undertaken in terms of section 38(3) of the NHRA (25 of 1999):

The specialist has recommended a field-based archaeological impact assessment. A field-based assessment of the impact to archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified archaeologist should they deem it appropriate

The proposed development footprint is located in an area of Very High sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is required to be conducted as part of the EA process. The desktop PIA must be compiled by a qualified palaeontologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested reports and the submission of the draft EIA with appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

# Proposed development of the Kiara PV 1 Facility and Associated Infrastructure, North West Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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CaseID: 18917

Date: Thursday July 28, 2022  
Page No: 4

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Elijah Dumisani Katsetse  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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

## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahrissahra.org.za/node/600018>



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Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

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Email: [ekatsetse@sahra.org.za](mailto:ekatsetse@sahra.org.za)

CaseID: 18918

Date: Thursday July 28, 2022

Page No: 1

## **Interim Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

The Applicant, Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd, is proposing the construction of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility (known as the Kiara PV 2 facility) located on a site approximately 16km north east of the town of Lichtenburg in the North West Province. The solar PV facility will comprise several arrays of PV panels and associated infrastructure and will have a contracted capacity of up to 100MW. The development area is situated within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality within the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality. The site is accessible via an existing gravel road which provides access to the development area. The development area for the PV facility and associated infrastructure will be located on Portion 2 of the Farm Hollaagte No. 8 Six additional PV facilities (Kiara PV 1, Kiara PV 3, Kiara PV 4, Kiara PV 5, Kiara PV 6, Kiara PV 7) are concurrently being considered on the project site (within Portion 2 of the Farm Hollaagte 8 and the Remaining Extent of the Farm Hollaagte No. 8) and are assessed through separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes. A facility development area (approximately 169ha) as well as grid connection solution have been considered in the Scoping phase. The infrastructure associated with this PV facility includes: PV modules and mounting structures Inverters and transformers Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Site and internal access roads (up to 8m wide) Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage. Temporary and permanent laydown area Grid connection solution will include: Facility Substation Eskom Switching Station A 275kV powerline (16.6km in length) (either single or double circuit), to connect the PV facility to the Watershed MTS. The 132kV powerline from the on-site substation to the collector substation is approximately 1.2 km long.

Savannah Environmental has been appointed by Voltalia South Africa (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed Kiara PV 2 facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 2 of the Farm Hollaagte No. 8 near Lichtenburg Ditsobotla Local Municipality, Ngaka Modiri Molemela District Municipality, North West Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no





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107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will entail the construction of a Solar PV facility with associated infrastructure that includes solar PV array comprising PV modules and mounting structures, inverters and transformers, cabling between the panels 132kV onsite facility substation/ 132kV power line from onsite substation to the switching collector substation, Battery Energy Storage System, site internal access roads (upto 8m wide), site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop area for maintenance and storage, temporary and permanent laydown areas etc...

CTS Heritage have been appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

*Levin, J. May 2022. Heritage Screener: Proposed Development of the Kiara PV 2 Facility and Associated Infrastructure, North West Province.*

The specialist undertook a desktop survey of the larger project area and development footprint through a literature review of previous heritage impact assessment studies (Van Schalkwyk 1995, 2021; Van der Walt 2014; Levin 2021). Some of these reports include field assessments such the (1995, 2019, & 2021) reports detail the broad area of Lichtenburg as heavily disturbed by previous mining, historical and contemporary agricultural activities. No heritage resources were identified during the 2019 field survey. While the 2014 and 2021 field assessments identified lithic scatters which were interpreted as evidence of MSA and LSA factories on which mobile groups practicing trans-humanism may have been attracted to the area by the abundance of chert for the production of stone tools. It is also noted that in some areas burrowing animals brought MSA artefacts to the surface where the sand cover was more than a metre and half thick and the possibility of subsurface material cannot be excluded.

It is likely that a similar archaeological signature will be present within the area proposed for this development and as such, a field survey to assess impacts to archaeological heritage resources is recommended.

The heritage screener also notes that the proposed development area is located in a geological deposit belonging to the Monte Christo Formation of the Chuniespoort Group. The Monte Christo Formation is within the Malmani Subgroup. These deposits have a very high sensitivity for impacts to palaeontological resources. This group is known to contain a range of shallow marine to intertidal stromatolites (domes, columns etc) and organic-walled microfossils. In addition, it is within this group that fossiliferous Late Cenozoic cave breccias



# Proposed development of the Kiara PV 2 Facility and Associated Infrastructure, North West Province

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have been identified, such as within the Cradle of Humankind region. A development located approximately 15 km away within the same geology was surveyed on foot by Bamford et al. 2019 as part of the Heritage Impact Assessment completed for the Lichtenburg PV facilities. The conclusion and recommendations in the 2019 PIA by Bamford were that after a thorough assessment the impact of the development was found to negligible to extremely low. The same conclusion is drawn for the proposed project.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA's APM Unit acknowledges receipt of the DSR and Heritage Screener and the recommendations contained therein. SAHRA supports the recommendations of the specialist and requests that the following is undertaken in terms of section 38(3) of the NHRA (25 of 1999):

The specialist has recommended a field-based archaeological impact assessment. A field-based assessment of the impact to archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. The report must comply with section 38(3) of the NHRA and the SAHRA 2006 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Component of Impact Assessments, and the 2012 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Heritage Impact Assessments. The Minimum Standards provides allowance for a Letter of Recommendation for Exemption that can be submitted by a qualified archaeologist should they deem it appropriate

The proposed development footprint is located in an area of Very High sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is required to be conducted as part of the EA process. The desktop PIA must be compiled by a qualified palaeontologist and must comply with the SAHRA 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested report and the submission of the draft EIA with appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

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

## ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahrissahra.org.za/node/600019>