



**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

**WOODHOUSE SOLAR 1 AND
WOODHOUSE SOLAR 2 PV
FACILITIES, NORTH WEST
PROVINCE**

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

**NOTES OF THE MEETING:
NALEDI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**HELD ON:
THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016 AT 09:30**

**VENUE:
19 MARKET STREET, VRYBURG**

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

WOODHOUSE SOLAR 1 AND WOODHOUSE SOLAR 2 PV FACILITIES, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Venue: 19 Market Street, Vryburg

Date: Thursday 17 March 2016

Time: 09:30-10:00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Candice Hunter of Savannah Environmental welcomed all in attendance and introduced herself as the Social Consultant from Savannah Environmental. She noted that Genesis Woodhouse Solar 1 (Pty) Ltd and Genesis Woodhouse Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of commercial photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facilities, known as the Woodhouse Solar 1 PV Facility and Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility, as well as associated infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of the farm Woodhouse 729 which is located approximately 10km south east of Vryburg in the North West Province. She explained that Savannah Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental consultancy to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project.

Candice Hunter thanked all in attendance for the opportunity to brief them about the proposed project. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to present the background of the project, provide an overview of the environmental assessment process and discuss any potential social issues and concerns with the proposed developments. She noted that any issues raised would be recorded as part of the public participation process and included in the Comments and Responses Reports which would be appended to the Environmental Impact Assessment Reports that would be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
Arnold Manamela (AM)	Naledi Local Municipality – Town Planner
Gilbert Setlhoho (GS)	Naledi Local Municipality – Manager Electricity
Candice Hunter (CH)	Savannah Environmental – Social Consultant

APOLOGIES

None

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Candice Hunter presented the background and introduction to the project and the Environmental Impact Assessment process. She presented a map including the location of the proposed development.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
AM: What is the name of the farm where the developments are proposed?	CH: The Remaining Extent of Woodhouse 729.
GS: Where are they planning to connect the project to?	CH: There are two connection options. They are currently busy with the construction of a new substation (Bophirima substation). The first option will be to connect to the new substation. The second option will be to loop into the authorised 132kV Eskom Bophirima-Mookodi overhead line (planned to be constructed soon).
AM: Will you be able to notify us with a letter and include a copy of the EIA report.	CH: Yes, a CD will be sent to the Municipal Manager. We will add you to our database and then you'll receive the letter notifying you when the report is available for review on our website.
GS: Have you consulted with Eskom for connection?	CH: The developers will be consulting with Eskom. We are only undertaking the EIA for the project.
GS: Who are the developers?	CH: Genesis Eco Energy Projects (Pty) Ltd
<p>AM: The developer will need and land use application as the land is listed under agricultural land use.</p> <p>This will be part of our comments on the EIA report. I'll recommend that this process runs concurrently with the EIA process.</p>	CH: Noted.
AM: Has the power line corridor to Mookgadi already been assessed?	CH: Yes, that is an already an authorised Eskom corridor. The developer is planning to loop into the authorised 132kV Eskom Bophirima-Mookodi overhead line.

Question / Comment	Response
AM: Are they planning to connect somewhere along the power line?	CH: Yes, they are planning to loop in and loop out near the R34, this will be confirmed at a later stage.
AM: We as the municipality support the projects as there will be an increase in employment opportunities.	CH: Noted. The construction phase for each plant will be approximately 18 months of and approximately ~400 employment opportunities will be available. For the operational phase, approximately ~40 employment opportunities will be available (to clean the panels, security).
GS: How long will the contract be with the landowner?	CH: The developer will lease the areas on the farm for the developments. The operation phase for each development will be approximately ~20 years.
CH: Do you have any other concerns or issues with the proposed developments?	AM: No, we support these developments and we are hoping that they become preferred bidders.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

In closing Candice Hunter noted that the EIA report will be released in the coming weeks and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the report. The comments received from the public review will then be incorporated into the final report and thereafter it will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Candice Hunter thanked all in attendance for availing themselves for the meeting. The meeting ended at 10:00.