

**NOUPOORT CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER (CSP) PROJECT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT**

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COMMENTS RECEIVED: SCOPING PHASE

No.	Issue	Issue Raised By	Response
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS			
1.	How does this EIA process affect me? Why am I being consulted?	<p>Handré Nieuwoudt Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>Allemans Fonteijn RE/83 and Damfontein 8/114</p> <p>Meeting: 07-04-2016</p>	<p>The project does not directly affect the landowner or the Allemans Fonteijn RE/83 and Damfontein 8/114 properties. Adjacent landowners are required to be notified of the EIA process in terms of the EIA Regulations 2014. Adjacent landowners are being consulted throughout the EIA process to ensure that any issues and concerns raised can be adequately considered within the Scoping and EIA reports.</p>
2.	Usually the developers undertake the EIA and then they consult the adjacent landowners. Personally, I feel that the landowners should be consulted beforehand.	<p>Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>Farm Carolus Poort 5/167</p> <p>Meeting: 08-04-2016</p>	<p>This project is in the Scoping phase which is the initial phase of the EIA, and is undertaken in order to identify issues with regards to the proposed project. Impacted and adjacent landowners are being consulted throughout the EIA process to ensure that any issues and concerns raised can be adequately considered within the EIA process.</p>
GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE			
3.	Will the project connect to the Newgate Substation directly?	<p>Handré Nieuwoudt Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>Allemans Fonteijn Re/83 and Damfontein 8/114</p> <p>Meeting: 7-04-2016</p>	<p>An on-site substation will be constructed for the project. Two grid connection options are being considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A direct connection to the 132kV Newgate Substation, ii. A split connection between the 132 kV Newgate Substation and the 66kV Noupoort Substation.
4.	I am not sure if the developer will be able to evacuate power into the Newgate Substation as there is another solar facility that is also connecting to the grid via the Newgate Substation. Will the developer be able to connect to substations located further away?	<p>Meeting: 7-04-2016</p>	<p>It is possible for the project to evacuate to substations which are located further away than the Newgate and Noupoort substations. However, this would increase the length of the power line. The final point of connection to the grid will be dictated by Eskom once the project is named as a preferred bidder. One of the primary reasons the developer selected the proposed development site is due to its close proximity to the Newgate Substation.</p>
5.	Will the project connect to the Newgate substation?	<p>Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner</p>	<p>Two grid connection options are being considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A direct connection to the 132kV Newgate Substation,

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		Farm Carolus Poort 5/167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	ii. A split connection between the 132 kV Newgate Substation and the 66kV Noupoort Substation.
PROJECT DETAILS			
6.	Is this new trough technology?	Mzawandile Toto Municipal Manager Umsobomvu Local Municipality Meeting: 7-04-2016	This is an enhanced trough CSP technology not currently implemented in South Africa. The developer has improved on the technology to make it more environmentally-friendly and efficient. In contrast to other trough technologies which use molten salt or oil as the heat transfer fluid, the technology that is being proposed uses water. The technology also utilises a floating field concept which provides above ground installation of parabolic trough sections using a set of rails with no need for land levelling and minimal ground disturbance, which also allows for easier maintenance.
7.	Will there be any developments on Farm Carolus Poort 5/167?	Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner Farm Carolus Poort 5/167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	There will be no development on Portion 5 of the farm Carolus Poort 167. The project will be constructed on the Remaining Extent of the Farm 207, Portion 1 and Portion 4 of the farm Carolus Poort 167.
IMPACTS ON AVIFAUNA			
8.	What species of birds were identified within the area?	Handré Nieuwoudt Adjacent Landowner Allemans Fontein Re/83 and Damfontein 8/114 Meeting:	The bird species that were identified by the avifauna specialist include the Karoo Korhaan and Blue Crane. A Verreaux's Eagle as well as the African Rock Pipit were spotted near the low mountain range within the Remaining Extent of the Farm 207, and a Secretary bird nest was identified within Portion 4 of the Farm Carolus Poort 167. Other species that were recorded during the specialist's site visits include the Martial Eagle and the Ludwig's Bustard.

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9.	Why have avifaunal specialist studies been conducted, especially if the developer will commence with the construction anyway?	7-04-2016	An EIA process, including specialist assessments such as an avifauna impact assessment is required to be undertaken in order to apply for an environmental authorisation for the project. The avifauna impact assessment is required to identify the potential impacts the project would have on birds. The specialist is required to recommend mitigation measures to alleviate and manage the potential impacts to birds. The potential impacts and sensitivities identified will ultimately inform the project's design and layout.
10.	There are a lot of Blue Crane birds within this area. They cause a lot of damage in this area. When you sowing seeds for the other animals, they usually peck up all the seeds.	Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner Farm Carolus Poort 5/167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	It is noted that Blue Cranes occur in the vicinity of the project site. The Blue Crane species are frequently associated with cultivated fields and are known to be opportunistic foragers.
11.	We consider the Korhaans to be pests as they damage our crops.	Jim de Villiers Impacted landowner Portion 1 and 4 of Carolus Poort 167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	It is noted that the farmers consider the Korhaans to be pests. Of the three Korhaan species occurring in the area, the Blue Korhaan is most likely to be seen in crop fields, followed by the Northern Black Korhaan. These species are not likely to cause significant damage to crops. The third Korhaan species, the Karoo Korhaan, is typically associated with stony areas and is unlikely to frequent crops. In contrast, the Blue Crane species are frequently associated with cultivated fields where they are known to cause damage to crops.
12.	What impact do the birds have on the project? The Blue Cranes will be spotted around water. If the water is removed, then the Blue Cranes won't be in the area. They are usually also found in the cultivated lands where they cause a lot of damage.		Several bird species (including Blue Cranes) have been identified within the site and areas utilised for roosting and breeding has been demarcated as No-go or sensitive areas. The area available for development is restricted by the areas frequented by the various bird species. If artificial open water sources are removed, these areas will be used less by most of the bird species, including the Blue Cranes.

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OTHER PROJECTS AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS			
13.	An EIA was previously conducted on the same farm. Why is it necessary to undertake another EIA?	Handré Nieuwoudt Adjacent Landowner	The first Basic Assessment process was for a small PV installation. This is a new project, different in nature and extent, and technology to be used, albeit proposed on the same property. A separate EIA is required specifically for this project in order to adequately assess the potential for the Noupoot CSP project's impact on the environment.
14.	An EIA was undertaken for a project on Damfontein 8/114 but I see that it is not included on the cumulative map.	Allemands Fontein Re/83 and Damfontein 8/114	The cumulative map only includes projects that have received environmental authorisation.
15.	How many projects shown on the cumulative map will be constructed?	Meeting: 7-04-2016	Two projects shown on the cumulative map have received preferred bidder status under the Department of Energy's REIPPP Programme, namely, the Noupoot Mainstream Wind Energy Facility and the Linde Project Solar Energy Facility.
16.	The power lines will need to be upgraded if all these projects on the cumulative map are constructed.		The Noupoot CSP project is currently undertaking technical studies to determine various options to connect to the grid, taking into account existing projects under development. The result of these studies will more than likely result in upgrading of existing infrastructure, including the power lines.
17.	In the beginning we were told that the development would be within Portion 2 of Kleinfontein 117.	Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner	The project proposed to be constructed on the farm Kleinfontein is a photovoltaic (PV) development that is being proposed by a different developer.
18.	Is this the same developer that is constructing the wind farm on the Farm Holbrook?	Farm Carolus Poort 5/167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Noupoot (Pty) Ltd is the developer of the Noupoot Wind Farm on the Farm Holbrooks. CRESCO Energy is proposing the development of a CSP facility within the Remaining Extent of the Farm 207, Portion 1 and Portion 4 of Carolus Poort 167.
SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS			
19.	With previous renewable energy projects, construction workers were sourced from Middleburg and the revenue was therefore taken to another Municipality.	Mzawandile Toto Municipal Manager Umsobomvu Local Municipality	An economic development specialist has been appointed by the Noupoot CSP Project whereby an intensive community needs- and opportunity analysis will be undertaken. During this process, the skills levels, job creation opportunities etc. will be investigated. Should the project be selected as a Preferred

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20.	Accredited skills training and development programmes must be implemented as part of this project. Local workers must benefit in the long term, and not only during the construction phase.	Meeting: 7-04-2016	Bidder, the process to recruit construction workers as well as where to house them (if applicable) etc. will be clearly defined. In accordance with the Department of Energy's IPP programme, funding for skills transfer becomes available to the project only during the operation phase. Should the project's financial model allow for skills transfer during the construction phase, it will be implemented. Furthermore, enterprises will be identified for mentoring, training and coaching with the intent to procure services from these businesses during the operation phase, as far as reasonably practical.
VISUAL IMPACTS			
21.	There will be a visual impact as one can see the reflection from these facilities from far.	Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner Farm Carolus Poort 5/167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	The visual desk-top scoping assessment indicates that the construction of the CSP facility will have a visual impact to a limited extent on relatively natural areas surrounding the development area. The character of the affected area will change which will have the effect of industrialising the character of the landscape surrounding it. However, as the site is located immediately adjacent to a town centre and there is a windfarm already under construction in close proximity to the town, this change will be minimal. A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the proposed project to assess the potential impact in detail and to recommend appropriate mitigation measures.
PROJECT NEED AND DESIRABILITY			
22.	Why don't the developers develop the project further away from the town? The same landowners have properties behind the ridge as well.	Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner Farm Carolus Poort 5/167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	The proposed site is considered to be highly desirable for the development of a CSP project due to its suitable topography (i.e. in terms of a flat slope), site access (i.e. to facilitate the movement of machinery during the construction phase and operations staff in the long-term), land availability (i.e. the land is secured for the intended use), the extent of the site (i.e. the land parcel is able to accommodate the 900 ha required for the facility), and enabling optimal placement of the infrastructure

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			<p>considering potential environmental sensitivities or technical constraints.</p> <p>The site selected is also in close proximity to grid connection options, namely the Newgate and Noupoort substations. Furthermore, the site selected has already been zoned for solar use.</p>
WATER			
23.	Where will the water required for the facility come from? I don't think the municipality has enough water.	<p>Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>Farm Carolus Poort 5/167</p> <p>Meeting: 8-04-2016</p>	The developer is considering sourcing water from the local municipality, and the Umsobomvu Local Municipality has approved water allocation to the Noupoort CSP Project.
IMPACTS TO FARMING ACTIVITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE			
24.	The farming infrastructure, including windmills and animal feeding troughs, located within Portion 1 and 4 of Carolus Poort, as identified on the features map will be removed in order to accommodate the development. The artificial wetland identified on the boundary of Portion 1 and 4 will be removed once the windmill is removed.	<p>Jim de Villiers Impacted landowner</p> <p>Portion 1 and 4 of Carolus Poort 167</p> <p>Meeting: 8-04-2016</p>	It is noted that the farmer intends to remove the windmills and animal feeding troughs from the development area and that this would result in the removal of the artificial water sources or wetland features identified on the boundary of Portion 1 and 4 of the farm.
25.	The feeding and water troughs as well as the fencing will be moved, although this will depend on the layout of the facility. If the facility is located further away, then the feeding and water troughs will remain where they are. According to the developer, no construction will occur north of the Linde/Carolus 132kV power line.	<p>Henk du Toit Impacted landowner</p> <p>RE/207 and Farm Carolus Poort 12/167</p> <p>Meeting: 8-04-2016</p>	It is noted that the farmer is prepared to remove the farming infrastructure including feeding and water troughs as well as fences to accommodate the CSP project.

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GENERAL			
26.	I do not have any problems with the project.	Handré Nieuwoudt Adjacent Landowner Allemans Fontein Re/83 and Damfontein 8/114 Meeting: 7-04-2016	It is noted that Mr Nieuwoudt does not have any concerns regarding the project at this time.
27.	Are the properties zoned for agricultural use?	Mzawandile Toto Municipal Manager	Farm 207, Portion 1 and Portion 4 of Carolus Poort 167 are zoned for special use: solar.
28.	When will this project be bid to the Department of Energy?	Umsobomvu Local Municipality Meeting: 7-04-2016	The project will be bid in the next available bidding round.
29.	Who will the electricity produced by the solar facilities be sold to?	Pieter Langenhoven Adjacent Landowner Farm Carolus Poort 5/167 Meeting: 8-04-2016	All the power generated by these projects is sold to Eskom under a Power Purchase Agreement.