
WOODHOUSE SOLAR 2 PV FACILITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

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COMMENTS RECEIVED: EIA PHASE

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
PROJECT TIMEFRAMES			
1.	When is building going to start on the Woodhouse solar project at Vryburg. I see you have a poster at the door at the library.	Niel Faber Community Member Email: 12-01-2016	The project requires Environmental Authorisation from the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and approval from the Department of Energy (DoE) before it can be constructed. The project developer aims to bid this project into the DoE's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme in the next bidding round which is anticipated to be in the last quarter of 2016. Should the project be awarded preferred bidder status by the DoE in the upcoming bidding window then construction could commence in the second half of 2017 or beginning of 2018, however this would only be able to be confirmed at a later stage.
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND I&AP REGISTRATION			
2.	Could I please be included as an I & AP for the above projects?	Mike Levington Director Kabi Energy Email: 29-02-2016	Mike Levington has been registered as an I&AP for the project.
ISSUES RAISED BY LANDOWNERS			
3.	There is a lot of theft in the area, as well as hunting. So I have fenced off most of the area, but everything just keeps getting stolen.	Mr D Webber Impacted Landowner Farm Woodhouse RE/729 Meeting:	The current high crime levels in the area are noted. The impact of the development of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility on the safety and security of the areas surrounding the development have been assessed in the Social Impact Assessment as included in page 65 of Appendix I of the Final EIA Report. The assessment concluded that safety and security issues temporary in nature may be associated with the construction phase (12-18 months) of the development and that these will be required to be controlled through mitigation

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		16-03-2016	measures including the fencing of the PV facility and an access control point at the entrance of the access road to ensure no unwanted visitors access the site. However, it should be noted that this impact is not considered as being of a high significance and will therefore not have an adverse impact on the site and the surroundings with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. In addition, the increase in the potential for employment opportunities may present relief to the crime rate, as more opportunities are available to unemployed persons residing in the area providing the residents with the opportunity to enhance their quality of life. The EMPr, included as Appendix J in the final EIA Report, of the PV facility includes specific mitigation measures to be implemented to ensure the safety and security of the PV facility and the surrounding areas. These specific mitigation measures are included as Objective 7 in the EMPr.
4.	When did Genesis (Pty) Ltd and David Webber start with this project?	Betrus Meyer Adjacent Landowner Farm	The EIA process commenced in November 2015. The project developer intends on bidding these projects into the next round of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement (REIPPP) Programme which is anticipated to be in the final quarter of 2016.
5.	I have no concerns regarding noise, dust, traffic and visual impacts of the proposed projects.	Champions Kloof RE/4/731 Meeting: 16-03-2016	It is noted that the adjacent landowner has no concerns regarding noise, dust, traffic and visual impacts of the proposed project.
6.	What impact will the proposed project have on the rainfall patterns? Do the panels absorb the heat?	JD van der Vyver	There is no scientific evidence that PV plants have an impact on climatic conditions or rainfall patterns in a region. The PV panels do not absorb heat, but rather absorb the energy created from the sub's rays..

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7.	There is a pan situated where the layouts are planned.	Farm Brandwagt 14/728, Brandwagt Re/2/728 and Lockerbie RE/1/27 Meeting: 16-03-2016	A pan does occur on the farm portion considered for this PV facility. An Ecological Impact Assessment (Appendix D of the final EIA Report) has been undertaken to determine the impact of the construction and operation of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility on the sensitive ecological features. The pan is located in the centre of Site Alternative 2 (alternative site), however still avoiding the pan, and is avoided by Site Alternative 1 (preferred site) located far to the south. A map illustrating the locations of the site alternatives and the environmental sensitivities (including the sensitive ecological features) are included in Appendix K of the final EIA Report.
8.	I am also representing Mr Olivier (one of the adjacent landowners- farm Brandwagt 8/728). He has informed me that he is planning to fence off a part of his property and utilise it for hunting purposes. There may be a possibility that some of the PV panels can get damaged from the hunting activities (shooting).		The proposed developments are planned to be located south of the R34. Woodhouse Solar 2 PV facility will be located approximately 3km south east of farm Brandwagt 8/728. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that the hunting activities (shooting) will have an impact on the PV panels.
9.	Will they clear the vegetation? Grass as well? What about the impact of rain water and erosion? If everything is cleared, there will be a lot of dust when the wind is blowing.		The site will not be cleared of vegetation. The vegetation located within the development footprint of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility will be removed where required during the construction phase of the development (i.e. for the substation footprint), but will be disturbed where the panels are to be erected. Following rehabilitation efforts, vegetation will be maintained to acceptable standards during the operation phase. The impact on the vegetation, as well as erosion potential has been assessed in the Ecological Impact Assessment as included in Appendix D of the final EIA Report. Specific mitigation measures have been included in the EMPr (Appendix J) for the mitigation of erosion and dust. These mitigation measures are included as Objective 8 and Objective 14. An Erosion Management Plan (as included as Appendix J

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			<p>of the EMPr) has also been compiled and included for the management of erosion associated with the development.</p>
10.	<p>I won't be impacted by the development visually. The project won't impact me. There might be cumulative impacts when all of the solar farms are constructed.</p>		<p>It is noted that the landowner is of the opinion that the project would have a low visual impact on his property.</p> <p>Based on a detailed evaluation, the cumulative impacts associated with the construction and operation of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility and other proposed renewable energy facilities in the region are considered to be acceptable (as included in Chapter 7 of the final EIA report). The low potential for cumulative impacts and risks makes the location of this project within the REDZ a desirable location for further consideration provided that environmental impacts are mitigated. From a visual perspective it must be considered that the development of a hub where multiple solar energy facilities would exist would create visual impacts for the areas surrounding the town of Vryburg, however it must be taken into account that not all solar energy facilities applied for within the greater Vryburg area will receive preferred bidder status and as such the construction of solar energy facilities will be less than those considered through the undertaking of an EIA process. Each facility applied for and those facilities that receive preferred bidder status will have to strictly adhere to the mitigation measures proposed by the Visual Impact Assessment undertaken and included within the respective EMPrs to ensure that the visual impacts of multiple solar energy facilities do not result in a broad-scale visual impact on the surrounding areas. Strict implementation of the EMPrs for each project as recommended within the EIA Reports must be adhered to.</p>

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11.	What will the water be used for during the initial phase?	Mr S. Badenhorst Adjacent Landowner Farm Bernauw 32/674	Water will be utilised for construction activities during the construction phase, which will include mixing of cement, dust suppression and in rehabilitation efforts. Water will be used for the washing of the PV panels during the operation phase. In addition, water will be required for domestic purposes such as ablution facilities and cleaning.
12.	Who are the developers for these projects? Are they foreigners?	Meeting: 17-03-2016	The project developer is a South African company known as Genesis Eco Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd.
13.	Have there been any oppositions regarding the project?		No objections have been raised by I&APs to date.
14.	How long will it be before the project starts with construction?		The project developer aims to bid the project into the next round of the DoE's REIPPP Programme which is expected to take place in the final quarter of 2016. Construction will commence at the end of 2017 or early 2018 if the project is awarded preferred bidder status.
15.	How will I be impacted by this project? The strongest wind comes from the north west. But the dust and noise isn't really a problem.		Danie Jacobs Adjacent Landowner Farm Brandwagt RE/1/728
16.	Does the development need to be close to the existing power lines to connect to the Eskom grid?	Meeting: 16-03-2016	It is preferable from a technical and environmental perspective that the development of Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility be located close the Eskom electricity grid as a shorter power line will be constructed which will be beneficial to reduce line losses as well as environmental impacts. The grid connection solutions presented in the report will have the least environmental impacts.
17.	Do they clean the panels?		The PV panels will be cleaned. The frequency of cleaning will depend on the performance of the panel as well as the season (and relative amounts of dust).

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18.	There isn't a lot of water on my farm. I have two boreholes on the farm, one is in use and the other one is only used in case of emergencies. These developments may have an impact on these water sources, especially being so close to the project site. How much water will be utilised?		Approximately 15 200m ³ of water will be required for the construction phase (12 – 18 months) for one PV facility. 5 050m ³ of water per annum will be required during the projects operation phase.
19.	Will the developer buy farm Woodhouse RE/729?		The developer will lease the areas of the farm utilised for the PV facilities from the landowner.
ISSUES RAISED BY THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY			
20.	What is the name of the farm where the developments are proposed?	Arnold Manamela	The name of the farm is Remaining Extent of Woodhouse 729.
21.	Where are they planning to connect the project to?	Manager: Town Planning Naledi Local Municipality Meeting: 17-03-2016	The grid connection options considered in the EIA Phase for the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV facility included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A direct connection to the authorised Eskom Bophirima Substation to be constructed by Eskom within the northern portion of the affected property (i.e. on the Remaining Extent of the farm Woodhouse 729); » A direct connection to the existing Woodhouse 88/22kV Substation located north of the boundary of the affected property; » A turn-in turn-out connection to the existing Delareyville Munic / Vryburg 1 88kV Feeder located along the northern boundary of the affected property; and » A turn-in turn-out connection to the authorised 132kV Eskom Bophirima–Mookodi power line, to be constructed by Eskom. (In the event that Eskom is unable to complete the construction of the proposed 132kV Eskom Bopirima-Mookodi overhead line, Genesis Eco-Energy Developments would consider undertaking the construction of the authorised power line within the authorised corridor (DEA Ref.: 12/12/20/1929) to connect the PV facility, via a turn-in turn-out connection to the completed 132kV power line,

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			<p>to the existing Mookodi 400/132KV Substation located to the west of the project site).</p> <p>These grid connection options were assessed within the EIA phase and were all considered to be acceptable from an environmental and technical perspective. However, a preferred grid connection point was identified by the developer as the most technically feasible option for the connection of the facility to the national grid. A direct connection to the authorised Eskom Bophirima substation was identified as the preferred grid connection option for the facility.</p>
22.	Will you be able to notify us with a letter and include a copy of the EIA report.		Notification letters notifying the Municipality's officials of the availability of the EIA Report were emailed at the start of the 30-day review period. CD copies of the EIA Report were sent to the Municipal Manager and to Mr Manamela via courier (refer to Appendix C4).
23.	Have you consulted with Eskom for connection?		The project developer will consult with Eskom regarding the grid connection options. Savannah Environmental have registered Eskom on the project's database and they have been informed and consulted on the EIA process.
24.	Who are the developers?		Genesis Eco Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd are the project developers for the project. A special purposed vehicle was established by Genesis Eco Energy Development (Pty) Ltd under which the project will be developed and is known as Genesis Woodhouse Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd.
25.	The developer will need to submit a land use application as the land is listed under agricultural land use. This will be part of our comments on the EIA report. I'll recommend that this process runs concurrently with the EIA process.		It is noted that the developer is required to submit a land use/rezoning application to the Naledi Local Municipality. This request has been forwarded to the project developer.
26.	Has the power line corridor to Mookgadi already been assessed?		This corridor has been assessed under a separate EIA process and Eskom has received environmental authorisation for the

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			power line. The developer plans to loop into the authorised 132kV Eskom Bophirima-Mookodi overhead power line.
27.	Are they planning to connect somewhere along the power line?		<p>The developer considered four grid connection options located within a 100m power line corridor for the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV facility which included i) a direct connection to the authorised Eskom Bophirima Substation (to be constructed by Eskom), ii) direct connection to the existing Woodhouse 88/22kV Substation, iii) a turn-in turn-out connection to the existing Delareyville Munic/Vryburg 1 88kV Feeder and iv) a turn-in turn-out connection to the authorised 132kV Eskom Bophirima-Mookodi power line (to be constructed by Eskom).</p> <p>The preferred grid connection point for the development of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility will be a direct connection to the authorised Eskom Bophirima substation located within the northern portion of the project site (i.e. the Remaining Extent of the farm Woodhouse 729).</p>
28.	We as the municipality support the projects as there will be an increase in employment opportunities.		The construction phase for each solar facility will be approximately 18 months. Approximately 300-400 employment opportunities will be available during the construction phase. For the operation phase, approximately 25-30 employment opportunities will be available.
29.	How long will the contract be with the landowner?		The developer will lease the areas on the farm for the developments. The operation phase for the facility will be approximately 20 years.
CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS			
30.	The draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) dated May 2016 and received by this Department on 10 May 2016 refers.	Nonhlahla Mkhwanazi Case Officer	<p>The responses to the DEA's comments are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The activities applied for in the application form are the same as those mentioned in the final EIA report. All relevant listed activities applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or

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	<p>The Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) must ensure that the exact thresholds related to the listed activities are specified in both the application form and in the final EIAr. ii. Should there be a need to amend the application form, 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. Coordinates for the proposed site as well as substation and power line must be provided with the final EIAr. Coordinates must be provided in the format DDMMSS. iv. In terms of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the report must include an undertaking under oath or affirmation from the EAP in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The correctness of the information provided in the reports; » The inclusion of comments and inputs from stakeholders and interested and affected parties (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 	<p>Department of Environmental Affairs</p> <p>Letter: 06-06-2016</p>	<p>infrastructure as described in the project description. Please refer to Table 3.1 and Chapter 3 of the final EIA report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ii. An amended application was submitted to the Department with the submission of the EIA report for review in May 2016. The most current application form has been used. No further amendment is required. iii. Coordinates for the proposed site as well as substation and power line are provided in Appendix K of the final EIA report. Coordinates are provided in the format DDMMSS. iv. An EAP affirmation from the EAP confirming the points below is provided in Appendix L. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * That the information provided in this report is factually correct; * All comments and inputs received from stakeholders / interested and affected parties, have been included as part of the EIA report and addressed where necessary. * All recommendations and inputs from the specialist reports have been included where relevant. * The correctness of the information provided by the EAP to interested and affected parties and any response by the EAP to comments or inputs made by interested and affected parties v. An environmental awareness and competence plan is included in section 6.4 of the EMPr (refer to of Appendix J of the final EIA report). vi. All issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the EIA report from I&APs and Organs of State have been addressed throughout this final EIA

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	<p>v. In terms of Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, the environmental management programme (EMPr) must include an environmental awareness plan describing the manner in which-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The applicant intends to inform his or her employees of any environmental risk; » Which may result from their work; and » Risks must be dealt with in order to avoid pollution or the degradation of the environment. <p>vi. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the EIAR from registered I&As 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.</p> <p>vii. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p> <p>viii. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.</p> <p>ix. Proof that the notice of Environmental Impact Assessment process was advertised in print media must be included in the final EIAR. Alternatively, motivation as to why this was not done must be provided.</p> <p>x. Recommendations provided by specialist reports must be considered and used to inform the layout</p>		<p>Report and is included in Appendix C6 and Appendix C8. Where comments have not been received from a State Department in writing within 30 days from the date on which it was requested to submit comments it will be regarded that the State department has no comments (as stated in Regulation 3(4) of the 2014 EIA Regulations).</p> <p>vii. The proof of correspondence with various stakeholders is included in Appendix C4 and Appendix C5. Proof of attempts to obtain comments are included in Appendix C6.</p> <p>viii. The public participation process has been undertaken in accordance with Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 and 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014. Specific sections relating to public participation is included in chapter 4 and Appendix C.</p> <p>ix. A notice of the EIA process was advertised in the "Overvaal" newspaper. The newspaper advertisement tear sheet is contained within Appendix C2 of the final EIA report.</p> <p>x. Recommendations provided within the specialist reports have been considered within the EIA report to inform the layout plan, as well as within the EMPr. The layout plan is included in Appendix K and the EMPr is included in Appendix J.</p> <p>xi. The Social Impact Assessment (undertaken by Candice Hunter of Savannah Environmental) has been peer reviewed by Dr. Neville Bews. This peer review report is included as Appendix D to the Social Report included in Appendix I.</p>

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	<p>plan and environmental management programme (EMPr).</p> <p>xi. All specialist reports that were done in-house must be externally peer reviewed before submission of the final EIA report. The peer-review must address the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 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; and » Identify any short comings. <p>xii. 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 of the minimum information required is listed under point 2 of the EIA information required for solar energy facility as requested in the acceptance of the final Scoping Report (SR).</p> <p>xiii. The final EIAR must provide the final EMPr and final layout plan with the information as requested in the acceptance of the SR.</p> <p>xiv. You are further reminded that the final EIAR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of</p>		<p>xii. The technical details for the proposed facility, as well as their dimensions is included in Chapter 2 (section 2.3). The details provided within the EIA report comply with the information requirements as per the acceptance of the final Scoping Report (SR).</p> <p>xiii. The final EMPr and the final layout plan are included in Appendix J and Appendix K. These were undertaken in accordance with the requirements stated in the acceptance of the final SR dated 16 February 2016.</p> <p>xiv. The final EIA report complies with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of the EIAR in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. The requirements in terms of Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, are met within the final EIA report. The requirements met per chapter is included in table format at the beginning of each chapter.</p> <p>The application meets the timeframes prescribed in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014.</p>

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	<p>assessment and content of the EIAR in accordance with Appendix 3 of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p> <p>xv. 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).</p> <p>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.</p>		
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES			
31.	Kindly provide the layout map (footprint) for both the proposed PV 1 and solar 2.	<p>Motsei Mothibi Land Use Officer LUSM: Land Use & Soil Administration Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Email: 18-02-2016</p>	The layouts for both Woodhouse Solar 1 and Woodhouse Solar 2 was sent through to Motsei Mothibi.

COMMENTS RECEIVED: SCOPING PHASE¹

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
I&AP REGISTRATIONS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS			
32.	I would like to be part of the project.	Ruben Neff Community Member Reply Form: 02-12-2015	Mr Neff's details were included in the I&AP database.
33.	I am hereby requesting to become one of the sub-contractors for the Civil works, Building Construction as I have a vast knowledge and experience in those fields, I have also a small plant for hire inclusive of wacker rammer compactor and skilled labourers ranging from Bricklayers, General workers and skilled labourers. Please send me also the site managers contact details	Brain Appolus Thabic Engineering Email: 07-12-2015	Mr Appolus' details were added to the I&AP database and forwarded to the project developer.
34.	Thank you for the information presented. I will forward this documentation to the Municipal Manager, Mr Segapo.	Cllr. Bernard Kgodumo Ward 5 Councillor Naledi Local Municipality Meeting: 02-12-2015	A copy of the background information document, project notification letter and draft Scoping Report was sent to the Municipal Manager of the Naledi Local Municipality on 14 November 2015. Savannah Environmental requested a meeting with Mr Segapo for 02 December or 03 December 2015, but unfortunately he was unavailable. The correspondence between the parties to provide evidence regarding the planned meeting is included in Appendix C4 – Organs of State Correspondence. A meeting will be arranged with the Municipal Manager in the EIA phase of the project.

¹ The comments and responses included under this section (i.e. Comments Received: Scoping Phase) only relate to the Scoping Phase which was undertaken for the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT LETTERS AND RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM ORGANS OF STATE AND STATE OWNED COMPANIES			
35.	Please find attached Eskom requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure.	John Geeringh Senior Consultant Environmental Management Eskom GC: Land Development Eskom Email: 16-11-2015	Eskom's requirements for works at or near Eskom infrastructure is noted. The information received from Eskom has been provided to the project developer for consideration during the design phase of the proposed project.
36.	Hereby our acknowledgment to your proposed work. Our reference number is CVR0746-15 for future referencing.	Amanda Bester Wayleave Management Telkom Email: 16-11-2015	Acknowledgment noted, no response required.
37.	This serves as a notice of receipt and confirms that your application has been captured in our electronic AgriLand tracking and management system. It is strongly recommended that you use the on-line AgriLand application facility in future. Detail of your application as captured: Type: EIA Your reference number: N/a Property Description: Woodhouse Solar 1 & 2 PV Facilities	K. Maluleke Land Use and Soil Management Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Acknowledgment noted, no response required.

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	<p>Dated: 13 November 2015 Please use the following reference number in all enquiries: AgriLand reference number: 2015_11_0116 Enquiries can be made to the above postal, fax or email.</p>	<p>Letter: 18-11-2015</p>	
38.	<p>The Department have received the abovementioned draft Scoping Report for comments for Environmental Authorisation on 17 November 2015.</p> <p>Please note the report has been assigned to Ms. Obitseng Moholo, Mahikeng Office. This file reference number is NWP/DEA/45/2015. Kindly quote this reference number and name of the officer it has been assigned to in any future correspondence in respect of the application including notification to be used for public participation.</p>	<p>Mrs Ellis Thebe Environmental Officer Control Grade A: Development Impact Management North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development Letter 23-11-2015</p>	<p>Acknowledgment noted. Ms Moholo's details were added to the I&AP database. No comments have been received from the department at the time of submitting the Final Scoping Report.</p>
39.	<p>The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) would like to convey its gratitude for being notified about the availability of the scoping report for the project. The Department has perused the documentation(s) sent. Based on the above, the Department does not have any objections to the proposed solar energy facility.</p> <p>However, the Department would like to be notified of anything related to the project in future.</p>	<p>Kathu Muruba Professional Town & Regional Planner Spatial Planning and Land use Management Branch</p>	<p>It is noted that the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform does not have any objections to the proposed solar energy facility. Mr Muruba's details were added to the I&AP database. Future correspondence regarding the project will therefore be sent to Mr Muruba.</p>

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		Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Email: 02-12-2015	
COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS			
40.	<p>The draft Scoping Report (SR) dated November 2015 and received by this Department on 18 November 2015 refers.</p> <p>This Department has the following comments on the abovementioned application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Nonhlahla Mkhwanazi Case Officer and Coenrad Agenbach Deputy Director: Strategic Infrastructure Developments</p> <p>Department of Environmental Affairs</p> <p>Letter: 7-12-2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All relevant listed activities associated with the development of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility have been applied for in an application for Environmental Authorisation which has been submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs on 13 November 2015. All listed activities have been described and linked to the specific development activities associated with the proposed PV facility in Chapter 3, section 3.2 (page 38) of the Final Scoping Report. ii. The activities applied for in the application form correspond with the listed activities mentioned in Chapter 3, section 3.2 (page 38) of the Final Scoping Report, and amendment to the application is not required at this time. iii. All issues raised and comments received during the 30-day review period (13 November 2015 – 14 December 2015) have been included and addressed in the Final Scoping Report where required. All comments received and associated responses are included in the comments and responses report (refer to Appendix C8 of this Final Scoping Report). All

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	<p>Section) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.</p> <p>iv. 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.</p> <p>v. 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.</p> <p>vi. Scoping specialist studies, if applicable, must be submitted to the Department with the final SR.</p> <p>vii. This Department requires a cumulative impact assessment to be undertaken in the final SR to determine potential fatal flaws.</p> <p>viii. The Department requests the EAP to include the specialist consultants who will conduct the specialist assessments.</p> <p>ix. The Department requires an avifaunal assessment study to be included as part of the PoSEIA. This</p>		<p>comments received are included in Appendix C6 of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>iv. Proof of correspondence as well as proof of attempts made to obtain comments from various stakeholders is included in Appendix C4 and C5 of the Final Scoping Report. The Public Participation Process undertaken for the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility Scoping phase was conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014.</p> <p>v. All identified alternatives are described and included in Chapter 2, section 2.4 (page 25) of the Final Scoping Report. The alternatives considered in the scoping phase includes the following i) site alternatives, ii) layout and design alternatives, iii) technology alternatives iv) grid connection alternatives, v) access road(s) alternatives and vi) the 'do-nothing' alternative. The advantages and disadvantages that the development will have on the environment and the community is included in Chapter 2, sections 2.2 to 2.4 (page 11-28) of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>vi. All scoping phase specialist studies undertaken for the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility Scoping phase are included in Appendix D-I of the Final Scoping Report. The studies undertaken include i) Ecology Study (Appendix D), ii) Archaeological Study (Appendix E), iii) Palaeontological Study (Appendix F), iv) Soils and Agricultural Potential Study (Appendix G), v) Visual Study (Appendix H) and vi) Social Study (Appendix I).</p> <p>vii. Cumulative impacts associated with the development of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility and other proposed solar energy facilities are described and</p>

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>must be a separate study and not form part of the ecological impact assessment.</p> <p>x. 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.</p> <p>xi. In accordance with Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations 2014, the details of-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) The EAP who prepared the report; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) The expertise of the EAP to carry out Scoping and Environmental Impact assessment procedures; must be submitted.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>		<p>assessed in Chapter 5, Table 5.4 (page 123) of the Final Scoping Report. No fatal flaws have been identified regarding the development of the Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facility.</p> <p>viii. All specialist consultants who will be undertaking the EIA phase specialist assessments are included in Chapter 3, section 3.5.1 (page 48) of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>ix. A separate Avifaunal Assessment Study will be undertaken in the EIA phase of the project. This assessment is included in the PoSEIA of the Final Scoping Report in Chapter 7, Table 7.1 (page 149).</p> <p>x. Appendix 2 of GNR 982 has been considered, included and attended to throughout the Final Scoping Report chapters in sections 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, and 7.1. Each chapter contains a table outlining the Appendix 2 requirements that are included in each chapter.</p> <p>xi. The details of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner and expertise to conduct the Scoping and EIA Phases are included in Chapter 1, section 1.4 (page 7), as well as Appendix A of the Final Scoping Report.</p> <p>xii. The Final Scoping Report was undertaken in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21 (1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014.</p> <p>xiii. The Final Scoping Report has been submitted within the required timeframes of the EIA Regulations 2014.</p>

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>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.</p>		
IMPACTS ON INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY			
41.	<p>We have a link running through the proposed area. However the document indicates the panels are 6 m high. Our link is running 20m above the ground so it should not be a problem.</p>	<p>Coert Loubser Operational Specialist Network Architecture and Planning Telkom Email: 18-11-2015</p>	<p>It is noted that Telkom has one link running through the proposed project site, and that it would not be impacted as the panels are 6 m high and their link runs 20 m above ground.</p>
42.	<p>I hereby inform you that our client (Telkom SA SOC Ltd) approves the proposed work indicated on your drawings in terms of Section 23 of the Electronic Communication Act. No. 36 of 2005 as amended.</p> <p>No infrastructure of our Client (Telkom SA SOC Ltd) will be affected by this proposal.</p> <p>Although we are not affected by this proposal, Mr David Gopane must be contacted from Telkom's Network Field Services before commencement of work.</p> <p>Approval of the proposed route is valid for six months. If construction has not yet commenced within this period, then</p>	<p>Amanda Bester Wayleave Management Telkom Letter: 22-11-2015</p>	<p>It is noted that Telkom's infrastructure is not affected by the proposed project. The need for notification prior to construction and as built plans is also acknowledged by the project developer.</p>

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>the file must be resubmitted for approval. Any changes/deviations from the original planning or prior to construction must immediately be communicated to this office. Please notify this office and forward an as built plan within 30 days of completion of construction.</p>		
ISSUES RAISED BY LANDOWNERS			
43.	<p>Please note that I am the owner of the adjacent farms, namely Remaining Extent of Portion 2 of the Farm Brandwagt 728IN and Remaining Portion of Portion 2 (Poppiesdale) of the Farm Brandwagt 728IN-District Vryburg.</p> <p>We are mining for sand and stone on both farms which necessitates blasting operations, in which case you must first familiarize yourselves with the location of our mining area and the impact our operations might have on the proposed solar panel project.</p> <p>We further wish to inform that we intend to establish game on the farms outside our mining area, in which case there WILL be game hunting taking place in future. We also intend to build bungalows overlooking the farm(s) and the town in which case we do not want the solar panels to be visible from this scenic point.</p>	<p>Rocco Olivier Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>RE/2 Brandwagt 728</p> <p>Letter: 20-11-2015</p>	<p>The presence of mining activities on the farm Brandwagt 728 is noted. The impact of blasting activities on the PV facility will be considered in the EIA phase. The siting of the PV facility will depend on the impacts of the blasting activities.</p> <p>The intent of establishing an alternative land use on the adjacent property (i.e. game hunting activities and tourism accommodation (bungalows) on the farm Brandwagt 728 will be assessed in the EIA phase through the Social Impact Assessment and the Visual Impact Assessment. Further information will be required from the landowner regarding the planned activities and the location of the activities on the farm.</p>
44.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. I am concerned about the aesthetic impacts. ii. Concerned about the large amount of solar farms that are being constructed in the area iii. Total water use and effects of chemicals which will be used for cleaning purposes. iv. Security 	<p>Mr JD vd Vyfer Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>Brandwagt 14/728 &</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A visual impact assessment in the EIA phase will be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of the impact of the development on the aesthetics of the surrounding area. ii. The town of Vryburg and its surrounding areas have been identified by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the CSIR as a focus area for the development

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	<p>v. Influence of the heat radiation on precipitation and climate.</p>	<p>Lockerbie RE/1/727</p> <p>Reply Form: 25-11-2015</p>	<p>of renewable energy projects specifically relating to the generation of solar power. These focus areas, identified throughout the country, are known as Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ). The REDZ SEA included a public participation process which afforded landowners an opportunity to participate.</p> <p>iii. Water usage during the construction phase is approximately 15,200m³ over 12-18 months, and approximately 5050m³ of water per year for the operation phase (over the 20 year lifetime of the project) for the cleaning of panels. High pressure water is used in the panel cleaning process. No harmful chemicals will be used for the cleaning of panels.</p> <p>iv. The impacts of the development on security will be assessed in the EIA phase through the undertaking of a social impact assessment.</p> <p>v. There is currently no evidence to suggest any adverse impacts on climate in terms of heat radiation, precipitation and climate. Solar farms help to reduce carbon emissions in the energy mix of the South African power generation through the use of a renewable resource (solar energy), reducing the impact on climate change and the adverse climate events associated with climate change.</p>
45.	<p>What impact would the project have on the guesthouse?</p>	<p>Hermanus van Zyl Adjacent Landowner</p> <p>Bernaau 56/674</p>	<p>The Neutedop Guesthouse located adjacent to the R34 and the affected farm is likely to be considered a sensitive receptor in terms of visual impact. Although the guesthouse was not identified as a sensitive visual receptor from a desktop level the visual impact assessment to be undertaken in the EIA phase will consider the visual impact of the development on the guesthouse.</p>

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
		Meeting: 02-12-2015	
46.	How large will the solar energy facility be?	Dons Barnard Adjacent Landowner	The solar energy facility will be approximately 300 ha in extent.
47.	What comprises the CBA 1 / sensitive area in the centre of the Woodhouse farm as shown on the sensitivity map?	Bernauw 19/674	The "CBA 1" area is referred to as a Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA) and a wetland which has a high ecological function has been identified. This area is considered a no-go area for development.
48.	I am supportive of the project, it seems as though there are many solar energy facilities planned in the area.	Meeting: 02-12-2015	<p>Support for the project is acknowledged.</p> <p>The town of Vryburg and its surrounding areas have been identified by the Department of Environmental Affairs and the CSIR as a focus area for the development of renewable energy projects specifically relating to the generation of solar power. These focus areas, identified throughout the country, are known as Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ). There are four authorised solar energy developments planned in the vicinity of the Woodhouse project site. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Authorised Carocraft Solar Park » Authorised Sediba Solar Energy Facility » Authorised Waterloo Solar Park » Authorised Tiger Kloof Solar Energy Facility <p>The authorised Waterloo Solar Park has received preferred bidder status in Round 4.5 of the Department of Energy's REIPPP programme.</p>
49.	Which substation will the solar energy facility connect to?	Dr Chris van Zyl Adjacent Landowner Waterloo 922	<p>The grid connection for the project will be finalised based on the environmental assessment. Three grid connection options are being considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Direct connection to the authorised Eskom Bophrima Substation proposed to be constructed in the northern

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
		Meeting: 02-12-2015	<p>portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Woodhouse 729</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Direct connection to the existing Mookodi400/132kv substation located to the west of the site » Direct connection the existing Woodhouse 88/22KV Substation located on the boundary of the site.
50.	How large will the solar energy facility be?		The solar energy facility will be approximately 300 ha in extent.
51.	How many jobs will the project create?		There will be between 300 and 400 temporary employment opportunities created during the construction phase for each facility. There will be approximately 60 permanent employment opportunities created during the operation phase of each project.
52.	There are other solar energy facilities in the area. Are you aware of these?		<p>There are four authorised solar energy developments planned in the vicinity of the Woodhouse project site as discussed in the Scoping Report. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Authorised Carocraft Solar Park » Authorised Sediba Solar Energy Facility » Authorised Waterloo Solar Park » Authorised Tiger Kloof Solar Energy Facility <p>These projects are located within a Renewable Energy Development Zone (Vryburg REDZ 6) which has been identified as an area earmarked for the development of renewable energy facilities. The establishment of REDZ will result in the creation of renewable energy hubs which will lead to areas being intensely developed for specific technologies, focusing the environmental and economic impact of the developments in specific areas.</p>

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
53.	Where will water be sourced from?		Possible water sources for the facility include the boreholes located within the Remaining Extent of Farm Woodhouse 729 or alternatively municipal water.
54.	How much water will be required by the project?		During the operation phase, water will be required to clean the PV panels. Water required for the 100MW PV facility is approximately 15 200m ³ for the construction phase over 12-18 months, and approximately 5050m ³ of water per year for the operation phase for the cleaning of panels.
55.	Where exactly will the solar energy facilities be located?	JD and Carla vd Vyfer Adjacent Landowners Brandwagt RE/2/728;	The exact location of the solar energy facility will be determined through the EIA. From a desk top level, the northern area of the farm is preferred for the development of the project as it is less sensitive from an environmental perspective. Specialists will undertake impact assessments and the site layout will be guided by the environmental sensitivities found on the site.
56.	Our main concern is the visual impact the solar facility will have on our farm.	Brandwagt 14/728; Locherbie RE/1/727	Homesteads on the farms located adjacent to the site are regarded as sensitive visual receptors within the visual impact assessment. Appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended in the EIA phase.
57.	What does the white area on the sensitivity map represent?	Meeting: 03-12-2015	The white area on the sensitivity map represents areas where no sensitivities have been identified from a desktop level.
58.	There are a number of Camel Thorn trees located near the wetland area.		The wetland area is considered as a no-go area in terms of ecological functions and would therefore not be considered for development in order to maintain the integrity of the area.
59.	Will the solar energy facility have an impact on the climate of the area?		The change of land-use associated with the development could potentially result in micro-climate changes. However, there is limited research available regarding the impacts that PV facilities have on micro-climate.
60.	There are a number of solar energy facilities that will be built in the area. What is the cumulative impact of this?		There are four authorised solar energy developments planned in the vicinity of the Woodhouse project site. These include: » Authorised Carocraft Solar Park

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Authorised Sediba Solar Energy Facility » Authorised Waterloo Solar Park » Authorised Tiger Kloof Solar Energy Facility <p>A cumulative impact assessment will be included in the EIA through input received from the specialists. An assessment of the impact of this project, existing solar projects and planned future solar projects in the area will be undertaken to determine the cumulative impact.</p> <p>These projects are located within a Renewable Energy Development Zone (Vryburg REDZ 6) which has been identified as an area earmarked for the development of renewable energy facilities. The establishment of REDZ will result in the creation of renewable energy hubs which will lead to areas being intensely developed for specific technologies, focusing the environmental and economic impact of the developments in specific areas.</p>
61.	Where will water be sourced from?		Possible water sources for the facility include the boreholes located within the Remaining Extent of Farm Woodhouse 729 or alternatively municipal water.
62.	How much water will be required by the project?		During the operation phase, water will be required to clean the PV panels. Water required for the 100MW PV facility is approximately 15 200m ³ for the construction phase over 12-18 months, and approximately 5050m ³ of water per year for the operation phase for the cleaning of panels.
63.	What is the lifespan of the project?		The project's lifespan is approximately 25 years. Depending on the continued economic viability of the solar energy facility following the initial 25 year operational period, the facility will either be decommissioned or the operational phase will be extended.

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
64.	What will the benefits of the project be?	Mr L J Rautenbach Adjacent Landowner	The project will create employment opportunities for people living within the Naledi Local Municipality during the construction and operation phase. The project will also provide much needed electricity into Eskom's grid.
65.	Will the electricity generated by the facility be sold to Eskom?	Bernauw 26/674 Meeting: 03-12-2015	The project developer will sell the electricity generated by the project to Eskom. The project developer will sign a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Eskom once the project is awarded preferred bidder status by the Department of Energy.
66.	Which substation will the solar energy facility connect to?	Mr and Mrs H.S.D Webber Impacted Landowner Woodhouse RE/729 Meeting: 03-12-2015	The grid connection for the project will be finalised based on the environmental assessment. Three grid connection options are being considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Direct connection to the authorised Eskom Bophrima Substation proposed to be constructed in the northern portion of the Remaining Extent of the Farm Woodhouse 729 » Direct connection to the existing Mookodi 400/132kV substation located to the west of the site\ » Direct connection the existing Woodhouse 88/22kV Substation located on the boundary of the site in the
67.	How long does the EIA process take? Will an environmental authorisation be granted before the next bid date?		The EIA process is a 300 day process from the date of submission of the application to the DEA. In terms of the current programme for the EIA, the final EIA Report will be submitted to the DEA by beginning of May 2016. The DEA has 107 days to issue the environmental authorisation after receiving the final EIA Report. The expected date for receiving environmental authorisation is mid- August 2016. It is possible that an EA could be granted before the next REIPPP bid date, which is not yet confirmed by the Department of Energy, but assumed to be in the last quarter of 2016.

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
68.	Where will water be sourced from?		Possible water sources for the facility include the boreholes located within the Remaining Extent of Farm Woodhouse 729 or alternatively municipal water.
69.	The impact of the development on the community will be positive. The project will result in the creation of employment opportunities. The project will stimulate the local economy.		The project will create approximately 300 – 400 temporary jobs in the construction phase and 60 jobs during the operational phase.
70.	There is a sand mining operation located on the farm Brandwagt 8/728. Blasting is done at this facility and as a result we have many cracks in our walls. Would blasting in the vicinity of the project have any negative impact on the solar energy facility?		The presence of mining activities on the farm Brandwagt 8/728 is noted. The impact of blasting activities on the PV facility will be considered in the EIA phase. The siting of the PV facility will depend on the impacts of the blasting activities.
71.	I am concerned that as the landowner, I will be suitably and sufficiently rewarded and compensated monetarily, in view of the high value of the land and the prime situation of the site. I do believe that this development will be very important for Vryburg and the community economically and socially, as well as benefitting the whole country.	Mr Hugh Webber Impacted Landowner Woodhouse RE/729 Reply Form: 14-12-2015	Genesis-Eco Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd have an agreement and process in place with Mr Webber.
SOCIAL IMPACTS			
72.	I am supportive of the project as it will create employment opportunities in the Naledi Local Municipality. How many job opportunities will be created during the construction phase and during the operation phase?	Cllr. Bernard Kgodumo Ward 5 Councillor Naledi Local Municipality	The Ward Councillor's support for the project is noted. There will be between 300 and 400 temporary employment opportunities created during the construction phase for each facility. There will be approximately 25-30 permanent employment opportunities created during the operation phase of each project.

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		Meeting: 02-12-2015	
HERITAGE IMPACTS			
73.	<p>The proposed project entails the development of the Woodhouse 1 solar photovoltaic (PV) facility and associated infrastructure, located on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Woodhouse 729, approximately 10 km south east of Vryburg in the North West Province. Archaeological and Palaeontological Scoping Reports were submitted with the application:</p> <p><i>Van der Walt, J. November 2015. Archaeological Scoping Report for the Proposed Woodhouse Solar 1 and Woodhouse Solar 2 PV Facilities close to Vryburg North West Province.</i></p> <p>Although no significant archaeological heritage resources were identified in the desktop study, the author informed that archaeological heritage resources can be expected in the proposed area.</p> <p><i>Butler, E. September 2015. Palaeontological Impact Assessment of the Proposed Woodhouse Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facilities and Associated Infrastructure on the Remaining Extent of Farm Woodhouse 729, near Vryburg, North West Province.</i></p> <p>The proposed area contains rocks of the Vryburg Formation (Ghaap Group) and Dwyka Group of the Karoo Supergroup. The northern outcrops of the Dwyka Group may contain fossiliferous sediments; however the likelihood of their</p>	<p>Ragna Redelstorff Heritage Officer</p> <p>South African Heritage Resources Agency</p> <p>Letter:08-12-2015</p>	<p>A field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be conducted in the EIA phase to ground-truth what the impact of the PV facility will be on the palaeontology of the site as required by the Palaeontological Scoping Study and SAHRA.</p> <p>A field-based Heritage Impact assessment will be conducted in the EIA phase and submitted to SAHRA for comment prior to the release of the final EIA Report.</p>

NO.	ISSUE/COMMENT	ISSUE RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>occurrence is considered low. Fossil stromatolites may occur in the Vryburg Formation. As the proposed area has not been studied palaeontologically, a field-based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) is recommended.</p> <p>The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit agrees with the recommendations in the Scoping Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A field-based PIA is required to be submitted to SAHRA. » As a few archaeological heritage resources may occur in the area as suggested in the Archaeological Scoping Report, SAHRA will await the submission of the field-based Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) that is to be conducted during the EIA phase before releasing a final comment on this development. 		