

**PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE LETHABO PV SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE
COMMENTS & RESPONSES REPORT**

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COMMENTS RECEIVED: EIA PHASE

No.	Issue	Issue Raised By	Response
PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND LOCAL PARTICIPATION			
1.	Thanks for sending the email very much. I think I need more information on when are we going to quote/tender for this project? Or if there are channels to follow please let me know.	Simon Leponesa Community Member Email: 23-03-2016	The procurement process for this project will start once all relevant permits are received. Eskom's tenders are advertised on Eskom's website and tender bulletin and media platforms. Both platforms are available to the public and any supplier is welcome to participate.
2.	On behalf of Oxirowave NPC a metsimaholo nonprofit organisation, we do not see local participation in this project, community trust for shareholding, economic benefits to the local contractors and skills development of the local community. We advise the EIA company do community engagements to further discuss the project.	Sicelo Mtsali Community Member Email: 1-04-2016	The project will follow normal Eskom procurement policies including supplier development and localisation (SD&L) policies.
3.	How is Eskom going to compensate people that have been affected by the polluted environment emanating from their coal burning technology from the past years?	Thabo Hlangu Director HTJ Projects Public Meeting: 12-04-2016	The PV facility is not to correct the actions of Eskom done in the past. PV is a new initiative of renewable energy and should be viewed as such.
4.	He supports the 75MW PV facility. Thanked Savannah Environmental for involving them in this phase of the project, he also pointed out that Eskom should be aware of processes such as BEE and affirmative action when hiring contractors. People in the community should be allowed to participate in these kinds of projects. The people who are able to carry out the work should be determined.	Lehlohonolo Mofokeng Community Member Public Meeting: 12-04-2016	Eskom has policies that govern the conditions when determining the contractor.

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5.	<p>Mr. Thabo is disappointed that the meeting had a poor attendance from community members, pointing out that it is due to the location of the venue that is distant to the community. It was also stated that the EIA reports require the community members to travel distances in order to gain access to them, which in turn is costly. SME's should also be given a chance to tender and be awarded contracts to increase their skills and experience base. It was requested that Eskom assess the current procurement process when it comes to tenders. The procurement process should be transparent.</p>	<p>Thabo Hlangu Director HTJ Projects Public Meeting: 12-04-2016</p>	<p>The community can suggest on the nearest place whereby the report can be easily accessible. In terms of procurement the issues are noted and the procurement team will be invited for sure meetings in future.</p>
6.	<p>The youth in the community should be considered as first priority for employment because they are directly affected by the project. With regards to Eskom using vendors from their vendor list, the concern is that projects are constantly issued to the same company/contractor. These companies revolve and reinvent themselves by changing company names, yet the management and ownership is the same. This does not offer opportunities to other companies. This is demoralizing to SME's.</p>	<p>Thato Tjale Community Member Public Meeting: 12-04-2016</p>	<p>Noted. A representative from procurement will be invited in order to answer the procurement or tender related questions. Most of the questions asked are more on the tender process and not environmental. All the answers will be available in the final Comments and Response Report.</p> <p>Eskom's default process is to advertise to the market for potential suppliers, except when the value of the works/service is less than R1m including VAT, where we are allowed to use our database. We may also do an open enquiry to the market in this value range, depending on how many suppliers we have on the database.</p> <p>As to the changing of directors and people coming with another name, please bear in mind, there is no limit as to the number of companies you may be a director of. So people may create new companies and may register with us. We only check the directorship at tender evaluation stage and may then find the</p>

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			same person tendering, which is in conflict with the competitiveness of the constitution.
7.	<p>Thank you for the recent update on the project. The presentation was impressive. I am curious though why is Eskom building a solar power station that will only cater for their own private energy consumption?</p> <p>Would it not be more correct to assist the communities to start generating their own power for minor consumptions like lights using solar technology.</p> <p>The global trend is going that way from what we can tell from the internet.</p> <p>If we implement solar geysers and solar power systems at our homes in my opinion the national carbon emission footprint would shrink drastically.</p> <p>The issue on unemployment is a national matter as per recent national statistics report I missed where it said Free State or Gauteng. If there is an economic opportunity let it be for all South Africans.</p> <p>With that said do still believe that there are benefits that can be realized from the project. Like for instance environmental conservation measures, strategies for sustainable development, economic opportunities and skills development.</p>	<p>Lehlohonolo Mofokeng Community Member</p> <p>Email: 23-04-2016</p>	<p>At the moment Eskom is only allowed to develop projects for own consumption since they are not the Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The electricity generated by the proposed PV facility will benefit the general public indirectly in areas highlighted by Lehlohonolo Mofokeng.</p>

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	<p>I look forward to participating in the in the project as a business person, providing constructive criticism and applauding Eskom when its due.</p> <p>Keep up the good work.</p>		
8.	<p>We kindly request the minutes of the public meeting held at Eskom premises on the 12 April 2016.</p> <p>We would like to know Eskom stance on public participation, in terms of ownership, skill development and local contractor participation in the project.</p> <p>Public meetings are supposed to be held in public venues, townhalls, public libraries like where I found you EIA report, why is it that Eskom is excluding the public in this project. Why are they playing, referee and player at the same time, we see a conflict of interest.</p>	<p>Sicelo Mtsali Community Member</p> <p>Letter: 26-04-2016</p>	<p>The venue where the public meeting was held was the Lethabo Power Station Visitor's Centre. The visitor's centre is located outside of the Lethabo Power Station facility which is accessible to the public. The public participation process was undertaken in accordance with Regulations 54 – 57 of the EIA Regulations, 2010.</p>

COMMENTS RECEIVED: SCOPING PHASE

No.	Issue	Issue Raised By	Response
ACKNOWLEDGMENT LETTERS FROM ORGANS OF STATE			
9.	<p>The Department of Energy hereby acknowledges receipt of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process for the proposed Lethabo Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility, Mpumalanga Province.</p> <p>We would like to confirm that the Department is still inviting Independent Power Producers to submit proposals for the generation of electricity from renewable energy sources under the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPPP).</p> <p>We have gone through the report and wish to inform Savannah Environmental that we are satisfied with the report. We further wish you all the best in securing a positive Environmental Authorization from the Department of Environmental Affairs. The Department would appreciate being kept informed of progress with this project.</p>	<p>Pheladi Masipa Project Coordinator: Renewable Energy Initiatives Department of Energy</p> <p>Letters: 17-12-2015 and 27-03-2015</p>	<p>Acknowledgement letters noted, no response required.</p>
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS & I&AP REGISTRATION			
10.	<p>Apologies. I hadn't noticed that these sites are on existing power stations. I don't think we will need to register.</p>	<p>Simon Gear Policy & Advocacy Manager BirdLife South Africa</p> <p>Email: 11-12-2014</p>	<p>BirdLife South Africa were removed from the I&AP database.</p>
11.	<p>To Whom It May Concern: I Hope you will receive my email in order.</p>	<p>Shadrack Molisane Community Member</p>	<p>Mr Shadrack Molisane was registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) on the project's database.</p>

No.	Issue	Issue Raised By	Response
		Email: 15-01-2015	
12.	The advert that appeared in the Sasolburg Ster dated 13 January to the 19 January 2015 in page 19, Notice of the Environmental Impact Assessment Public Participation Process requires that people should register on database of Lethabo Solar Energy Facility. This is email serve that purpose to register the following two people: Fani Mthimkhulu and Stephen Tsuke.	Fani Mthimkhulu Community Member Email: 10-02-2015	The details of Fani Mthimkhulu and Stephen Tsuke have been added to the project's I&AP database.
13.	Please find attached our Company profile for you perusal as discussed. Please add us to the Eskom database for the proposed Lethabo PV solar energy facility near Sasolburg (DEA ref: 14/12/16/3/2/753).	Errol Hammond Marketing Director Trump Services Email: 19-03-2015	The details of Errol Hammond were added to the project's I&AP database.
14.	The interesting part of this project is the concern of energy the development in infrastructure as well being of the environment and how it will bring changes to population so I'd like to become the part of this project.	Pride Mahlatsane Community Member Email: 19-03-2015	Pride Mahlatsane's details were added to the project's I&AP database.
15.	Please note that SANRAL is not affected by this application. It falls outside of the Eastern Region jurisdiction area and is nowhere near any National Road so our Northern Region will also not be affected. Please do not send any further correspondence regarding this application to our office.	Casper Landman Regional Manager SANRAL - Eastern Region Email: 7-04-2015	Comment noted. SANRAL's details were removed from the I&AP database.
16.	At the present moment I have two concerns. The first one, the document is not available in Zamdela Library of which is a worry because not everybody goes to	Fani Mthimkhulu Community Member	A copy of the Draft Scoping Report was delivered to the Zamdela Library on 16 April 2015. Transport the public meeting could not be provided.

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	<p>the town's library and for me its extra expense. Could you kindly make arrangements to drop one copy at the said library, as this email I am sending now it's from Zamdela Library that it why I could pick up that the document is not available.</p> <p>Secondly, I am from ward 19 the same ward where this project is going to take place. Since the meeting on the 16 April 2015 is late in the afternoon, can you kindly make transport arrangements for us to be picked up to attend the meeting. In my previous experience for such meetings stakeholders are always transported to the venue of the meeting.</p>	<p>Email: 8-04-2015</p>	
17.	<p>Why did Eskom provide short notice of the public participation meeting?</p>	<p>Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 16-04-2015</p>	<p>The public meeting was held on 16 April 2015. The availability of the Draft Scoping Report and date of the public meeting was advertised in the Sasolburg Ster on 17 March 2015 and the Vaalweekblad on 18 March 2015 as required by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2010. In addition, registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) were informed of the meeting via email and registered post on 18 March 2015. The public meeting was arranged through Cllr Mare and it was agreed that he would distribute leaflets informing community members of the meeting.</p>
18.	<p>Flyers, advertising future public meetings, should be distributed to each household in the affected communities.</p>	<p>Issue raised at Public Meeting held 16-04-2015</p>	<p>Comment noted. Savannah Environmental will prepare flyers in future and request the relevant Ward Councillors to distribute these to the affected communities one week prior to the next public meeting.</p>
19.	<p>Will Eskom provide feedback to the community once the EIA is finalized and the project approved?</p>	<p>Issue raised at Public Meeting held 16-04-2015</p>	<p>Savannah Environmental will notify all registered I&APs of the National Department of Environmental Affairs' (DEA) decision. An advert announcing the DEA's decision will also be placed in</p>

No.	Issue	Issue Raised By	Response
			the local newspapers. Eskom will provide feedback to the community if the project is approved.
20.	Why were public meetings not held in other communities surrounding the Lethabo Power Station?	Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 16-04-2015	A second public meeting will be convened during the EIA phase of this process. Meetings can be convened in other communities as required. Comments on the project must be sent in writing to Savannah Environmental.
21.	Kindly note that the above mentioned proposed Lethabo PV Solar Energy facility EIA has been sent to Gauteng Region for further commenting. Kindly contact: Mr. James Mofokeng Email: mofokengj@dwa.go.za Tel: 012 392 1426 Cell: 082 884 2778	George Motheo Free State Provincial Office Department of Water and Sanitation Email: 14-04-2015	The details of James Mofokeng were added to the I&AP database. No further comments have been received by the DWS to date.
22.	I was happy with the meeting as I found the presentation more straight forward than I expected. From my side I am happy with the project and I don't see any hiccups towards it's implementation. On the facilitation side I was very unhappy when I left the meeting but I didn't want to show my unhappiness to everyone then because I know the place where to raise my issues to. By merely asking a question, I was branded as someone campaigning for 2016 Local Government Election and hijacking the meeting. I don't mind who stays and who goes, my interest is development particularly public participation and that's it. Secondly, everybody who attended the meeting were at the same level except Eskom and Savannah SA	Fani Mthimkhulu Community Member Email: 20-04-2015	Comments noted. Future public meetings will be facilitated by Savannah Environmental in English and Sotho. A public meeting will be convened at a meeting venue which is more accessible to the broader community during the EIA phase.

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	<p>staff members. There was a client of which was Eskom and the consultant (scoping and facilitation) of which was Savannah SA. I was hoping that the facilitator will come from Savannah SA but it ended up being a local councillor.</p> <p>Eskom is a national key point of which it cannot be used for local politics.</p> <p>It was agreed that you 'might' bring the meeting to the Multipurpose Centre, my request will be that let Savannah facilitate. The meeting is going to be disrupted if that doesn't happen because every meeting that is led by a councillor doesn't finish well. Ask the Demarcation Board or the IDP officials.</p> <p>Remember it was my request to bring the meeting to our area and I don't want it to fail but to empower community about development in their area. This will also show them that Eskom is not sitting there doing nothing with this load shedding thing.</p> <p>I have done this work before and I know how the communities behave if they got issues with certain individuals or organizations. I will appreciate if you can take this email into consideration in your next meeting planning.</p> <p>Do have colleagues who speak local languages especially Sotho let take charge in the future.</p>		

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	There is also NPO that is sending their interest on this project by mail from those inserts we received in the brochures. The name is Molemo, they deal with environmental issues and the contact person is Paul Mokoena.		
EMPLOYMENT AND PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES			
23.	I am from Liaison Projects requesting the documents for Lethabo Solar Energy Facility as advertised recently. Our interests we can provided EPC and O&M services.	Simon Leponesa Business Owner Liaison Projects Email: 16-01-2015	Savannah Environmental has been appointed to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Lethabo Solar Energy Facility being proposed by Eskom. Eskom are not yet in a position to put the construction of the solar energy facility out on tender as feasibility studies are still being undertaken. Business owners and job seekers who contacted Savannah Environmental during the EIA process have been registered as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the project's database.
24.	My name is Thabo Hlangu director of HTJ project and trading based in Vaal Triangle. Cell no is 084 074 8312 and 072 434 9719. Here I would like register to your database. I'm interested to Building and access road.	Thabo Hlangu Business Owner HTJ Projects and Trading Email: 15-01-2015	
25.	I saw the advert on the Ster newspaper about the project. So I wanted to ask more about it, the planned starting date for the project and the skills in need. And the steps I have to take if I have interest and skills required.	Sboniso Zwane Job Seeker Email: 18-01-2015	
26.	My name is Thato Kgaledi Tjale, I am currently employed by Sasol polymers monomers division as Process Artisan. I currently have a company that is specialises in dstv and PV systems and I'm accredited by Ellies energy group. I would love to be a part of this project as I see this PV plant will help to mend our country's energy crisis and is also going green	Thato Tjale Job Seeker Email: 20-01-2015	

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	<p>which has other unlimited benefits. It's also a great business opportunity which I've been looking since I have completed the course.</p>		
27.	<p>Email: Our company, Hareon Solar SA, is a subsidiary of one of world leading manufacturers of solar modules, Hareon Solar in China and currently involved in various local solar project developments. We are very interested in participation of LETHABO SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY in free state and will be very grateful if you can provide us some more information on the project.</p> <p>Reply Form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » How will the project be financed? » What will be the required local elements to get involved in the project? » What will be the timeframe for implementation of the project? </p>	<p>Charles Gu Marketing Director Hareon Solar SA</p> <p>Email & Reply Form: 27-01-2015</p>	<p>Savannah Environmental has been appointed by Eskom to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed Lethabo PV Facility in the Free State. The tender process for the project will be announced by Eskom at a later stage once the project is approved.</p> <p>Eskom are in the concept phase of this project. The financing and procurement for this project will be in line with normal Eskom financing/investment and procurement processes. Mr Gu will be kept informed of the progress of the project as a registered I&AP.</p>
28.	<p>Engineering company that provides solutions for all green energy such as PV solar plant, waste to energy provider. We are able to do all EPC and O&M services with international partnerships. We are able and available to turn waste to energy as well as solar PV plants. We are free for all negotiations.</p>	<p>Simon Mabe Market Department EL Ashar Holdings (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>Reply Form: 20-01-2015</p>	<p>Savannah Environmental has been appointed to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Lethabo Solar Energy Facility being proposed by Eskom. Eskom are not yet in a position to put the construction of the solar energy facility out on tender as feasibility studies are still being undertaken. Business owners and job seekers who contacted Savannah Environmental during the EIA process have been registered as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the project's database.</p>
29.	<p>Please provide me with more information and updates about the project. I am a solar installer working in Sasolburg area. I am very interested in the project.</p>	<p>Lehlohonolo Mofokeng Job Seeker</p> <p>Email:</p>	

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		22-01-2015	
30.	Khabi Motaung requested to be registered as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) for the proposed Lethabo PV Solar Energy Facility (DEA Ref. No.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/753). He indicated that he was interested in obtaining work on the project.	Khabi Motaung Job Seeker Telephone/Email: 26-01-2015	Khabi Motaung was added as and I&AP on the project's database. The EIA process notification letter, background information document was sent to him via email on 27 January 2015.
31.	I would like to appreciate the effort and time taken to register the company on the data base, Thanks. Can you please share a light as to how will I be informed or made aware that of the commencement date of the project, will it be advertised on the newspapers or will you be informing all the companies on the database as to when the project will start?	Alita Mohlalifi Mokoena Chamadah (Pty) Ltd Email: 27-01-2015	Alita Mokoena was added as an I&AP on the project's database. The registration process for employment opportunities on the project will be announced by Eskom at a later stage once the project is approved.
32.	Will the local community receive opportunities for employment on the proposed project?	Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 26-04-2015	The type of employment opportunities available on the project would depend on the level of skill required by the principal contractor. In terms of Eskom's contract with the principal contractor, the contractor will be required to source low-skilled and semi-skilled workers from the nearby communities.
33.	The community must be informed of the procurement process prior to the commencement of construction.	Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 26-04-2015	This information will be provided to the community by Eskom.
IMPACTS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ITC)			
34.	Telkom has one link running through the proposed farm area. The link however clears the ground by over 35 m so there should be no problem here.	Coert Loubser Telkom Email: 17-12-2014	Comment noted. This information has been communicated to the applicant.

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SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS			
35.	<p>As an emerging energy entrepreneur my devotion to solar power is unquestionable. But more importantly I would like to see the energy crisis in our country resolved. I like to be given an opportunity to grow in knowledge and make a footprint in the energy sector.</p> <p>Sasolburg is a highly populated area it is wonderful to see Eskom taking a new direction in developing its business. This will surely set a new precedence for others to follow. I hope this project will mention job creation and knowledge transfer.</p>	<p>Lehlohonolo Mopoleng Community Member</p> <p>Reply Form: 30-01-2015</p>	<p>Comment noted. No response required.</p>
ISSUES RAISED BY NEIGHBOURING / SURROUNDING LANDOWNERS			
36.	<p>The Anglo coal stock yard is located near the alternative PV Site 2. The dust from the coal stock yard could potentially settle on the solar panels.</p>	<p>Nicola Torley Environmental Superintendent Anglo American (Anglo Vaal Colliery)</p> <p>Meeting: 18-02-2015</p>	<p>Eskom is considering mitigation measures to reduce the impact of dust on the solar panels should this alternative site be selected. This includes the use of trees to act as a barrier between the coal stock yard and the panels or alternatively make use of netting to trap the dust from the coal stock yard.</p>
37.	<p>When does Eskom intend on starting the development?</p>	<p>Mr Van der Merwe Neighbouring Farmer (Tenant) Farm Bankfontein RE/9</p> <p>Meeting: 18-02-2015</p>	<p>Eskom are in the concept phase of this project and are in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals to develop the project. Eskom will announce the construction timeframes at a later stage.</p>

No.	Issue	Issue Raised By	Response
ISSUES RAISED BY THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY			
38.	Will we be sent the environmental reports? The municipality will submit comments on the project once the Draft Scoping Report is received.	Mr Steve Molala Municipal Manager Metsimaholo Local Municipality	A copy of the Draft Scoping Report was sent to the Municipal Manager via courier on Wednesday 11 March 2015.
39.	How many employment opportunities will be created?	Meeting: 18-02-2015	There are three alternative sites being assessed for the proposed solar energy facility. The preferred site and alternative PV Site 1 will have a generating capacity of 75MW and could potentially create approximately 250-300 employment opportunities during construction phase (18-24 months). However, the local resources involvement depends upon the EPC contractor's skill and resources requirement. The alternative PV Site 2 will have a generating capacity of 35MW. This project will create approximately 150-200 employment opportunities during construction phase.
40.	Would they employ most of the people from the local area or will they be bringing a workforce in?		The majority of the labour will be sourced from the local area.
41.	Is the project located in the Free State Province?		The Lethabo Solar Energy Facility is located in the Free State Province.
42.	The Zamdela area (local township) near Sasolburg has an extremely high number of unemployed people. If the project could draw employees from that area it would assist in reducing the unemployment pressure and stimulate the local economy.		Comment noted. The procurement procedures will be discussed with the municipality and local ward councillors at a later stage in the project.
ORGANS OF STATE REQUIREMENTS			
43.	1. Your application with reference no. DEA ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/753 dated 18 March 2015 pertaining to the above-mentioned matter refers. 2. This Department does not have any objection to the proposed establishment of the solar energy	Mr WA Naude Director: Road and Asset and Management Systems Free State Department of	The Free State Department of Police, Roads and Transport's requirements are noted, no response required.

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	<p>facility since no provincial road is directly affected.</p> <p>3. Support for the establishment of the solar energy facility is granted in terms of the Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act, 1940 (Act 21 of 1940) and the Roads Ordinance, 1968 (Ordinance 4 of 1968). Such support, however, does not exempt Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd from complying with any other legal provisions that may be applicable.</p> <p>4. You are kindly requested to indicate reference no. DEA ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/753 on all future correspondence to this Department pertaining to this matter.</p> <p>5. Please be informed that no representative from this Department will attend the scheduled meeting of 16 April 2015 at the Vaal Power Community Hall in Vaal Power Village.</p>	<p>Police, Roads & Transport</p> <p>Letter: 16-04-2015</p>	
PROJECT PROCESS AND TIMEFRAMES			
44.	When will the project be constructed?	Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 16-04-2015	No decision or approval has been made as yet since the project is under the process of an EIA. Eskom are in the concept phase of this project and are in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals to develop the project. Eskom will announce the construction timeframes at a later stage.
45.	How long is the construction period?	Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 16-04-2015	The construction of the project will take approximately 2 years.

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GENERAL			
36.	South Africa is facing a power crisis as there is frequent loadshedding. Eskom should supply power to the National grid and not only to reduce their self-consumption at the Lethabo Power Station.	Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 26-04-2015	The installation of solar energy facilities at Eskom's power stations will strengthen the National Grid in the long term and forms part of the solution to solve the power supply crisis.
37.	Where will the proposed solar energy facility be located? Does the project pose any danger to the safety of the community? Will the solar energy facility have any dangerous impacts on livestock?	Issue raised at Public Meeting held on 26-04-2015	The solar energy facility will be located next to the Lethabo Power Station. The exact location of the solar panels will be informed by the Environmental Impact Assessment process which is being undertaken by Savannah Environmental. The solar energy facility does not pose a danger to the nearby communities nor will it have a negative impact on livestock in the area. The site proposed for the proposed project is located on land owned by Eskom and as such no houses or grave sites will need to be moved.