

**THERMAL POWER DUAL FUEL FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE TO FORM PART OF A HYBRID
GENERATION FACILITY TOGETHER WITH THE AUTHORISED HYPERION 1 & 2 SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITIES,
NEAR KATHU, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
(DEA Ref.no.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2019)**

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

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The Thermal Power Dual Fuel Facility and Associated Infrastructure Process was announced on Tuesday, 13 October 2020. The announcement letter served to invite Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to register their interest in the project and to submit any comments / queries that they might have. All written comments received during the BA process to date have been included in the table below.

The Scoping Report was available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Saturday, 17 October 2020** until **Tuesday, 17 November 2020**. The Comments and Responses Report (C&RR) have been updated with comments received during the review and comment period and included in **Appendix C8** of the final Scoping Assessment Report.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

C&RR	Comments and Responses Report	C&R	Comments and response
APM	Archaeological, Palaeontological and Meteorites	DMRE	Department of Mineral Resources and Energy
I&APs	Interested and Affected Parties	DEFF	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	EA	Environmental Authorisation
NC DAEARD&LR	Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform	EMPr	Environmental Management Programme
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment	NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NHRA	National Heritage Resources Act	SAHRIS	South African Heritage Resources Information System
SR	Scoping Report	SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency

1. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING COMMENCEMENT OF THE EIA PROCESS

No comments received

2. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING SCOPING REPORT REVIEW and COMMENT PERIOD

1.1. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	<p>The following information must be included in the final SR</p> <p>a) <u>Listed Activities</u></p> <p>i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.</p>	<p>Herman Alberts Case Officer DEFF</p> <p>Letter: 11 November 2020</p>	<p>Only activities associated with the proposed Thermal Power Dual Fuel Facility and associated infrastructure have been applied for and assessed within the application and the Scoping report.</p>
	<p>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</p>		<p>No changes to the listed activities have been made for the final Scoping Report.</p>
	<p>b) <u>Layout & Sensitivity Maps</u></p> <p>i) Please provide a layout map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a. Positions of the power island, steam turbine and generator, fuel storage tanks, water storage reservoir and tanks, water and gas supply pipelines;</p> <p>b. Permanent laydown area footprint;</p> <p>c. All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);</p> <p>d. Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;</p> <p>e. Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and</p> <p>f. All existing infrastructure on the site.</p>		<p>a) The positions of infrastructure for the thermal facility will be provided during the EIA phase of project when the technology alternatives have been assessed.</p> <p>b) As the thermal facility will be located within the footprint of the already authorised Hyperion PV1 and PV2 footprint, the laydown areas will be in accordance with the laydown areas for the authorised PV facilities.</p> <p>c) The proposed access road to the proposed Hybrid facility has been included in Appendix B1.</p>

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			<p>d) The position of the onsite substation for the thermal facility will be provided during the EIA phase of the project when the technology alternatives have been assessed and the detailed layout is available.</p> <p>e) A separate basic assessment process for the transmission infrastructure for the Hybrid facility is currently be undertaken. Therefore the proposed transmission and distribution networks have been included within the Appendices for the Basic Assessment process (DEA Ref.: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2247).</p> <p>f) The positions of infrastructure for the thermal facility will be provided during the EIA phase of project when the technology alternatives have been assessed and the detailed layout is available.</p>
	<p>ii) Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <p>a. The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc, that will be affected;</p> <p>b. Buffer areas; and,</p> <p>c. All "no-go" areas.</p>		<p>A full sensitivity map compiled from the outcomes of the scoping studies highlighting areas of ecological sensitivity, watercourses that will be affected by Thermal Facility is available within Appendix B3 of the final Scoping Report. Applicable buffers or no-go zones identified by specialists for the project are also indicated on the sensitivity map.</p>
	<p>iii) The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.</p>		<p>A facility layout overlain on the sensitivity map will be provided in the EIA phase of he process when the technology alternatives have been assessed and the detailed layout is available.</p> <p>A cumulative impacts of energy facilities and infrastructure in the area has been included within Section 8.5of the Scoping report. The cumulative impacts of the project together with other facilities in the vicinity of the site will be assessed within the EIA phase of the project.</p>
	<p>c) <u>Public Participation Process</u></p>		

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	<p>i) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state including this Department's Climate Change Section' which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.</p>		<p>All comments received during the review and comment period of the draft SR have been included within this Comments and Responses Report and have been addressed as far as possible. Where additional work is required to address these within the EIA Phase of the process, this has been indicated.</p> <p>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders and proof of attempts to obtain comments are included in Appendix C5 of the final SR.</p> <p>Proof of correspondence with organs of state and proof of attempts to obtain comments are included in Appendix C4 of the final SR.</p>
	<p>ii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>The Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended (GNR 326), as well as in accordance with the approved Public Participation Plan. The approved Public Participation Plan is included as Appendix C9 of the final SR.</p> <p>I&APs and organs of state were notified of the commencement of the EIA process as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BID, accompanied by a cover letter and registration & comment form, was emailed to those I&APs identified and the relevant organs of state on 14 October 2020 (refer to Appendices C4 & C5 of the final SR). • an advertisement was placed in the Kathu Gazette newspaper on 17 October 2020 (tearsheet included in Appendix C2 of the final SR).

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live reads on Radio Riverside 98.2 FM (refer to Appendix C2 of the final SR. for live read schedule). <p>The draft SR was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from Friday, 17 October 2020 until Tuesday, 17 November 2020 and the availability was announced as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertised in the Kathu Gazette newspaper on 17 October 2020 (tear sheets included in Appendix C2 of the final SR). • Notification letter was sent to all registered I&APs and Organs of State on the project database (Appendix C1 of the final SR) informing them of the availability of the draft SR for review and comment. <p>The draft SR was also made available for download from Savannah Environmental's website and could also be sent via other file transfer services (i.e. We Transfer, Dropbox, etc.) or on CD, on request.</p> <p>Site notices were placed at the proposed development site and surrounds on 01 October 2020. Proof of the placement of the site notices are included in Appendix C2 of the final SR.</p>
	<p>iii) A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this</p>		<p>A comments and responses report (C&RR) has been drafted and included as a separate appendix to the final SR (refer to Appendix C8 of the final SR). All comments raised and / or submitted are captured verbatim and not summarised. Comments have been responded to as far as possible, and no responses have been provided as</p>

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	<p>comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as 'Noted' is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.</p>		<p>'noted'. Where additional work is required to address these within the EIA Phase of the process, this has been indicated.</p>
	<p>iv) The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development particularly the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, and the District and Local Municipalities.</p>		<p>Proof of correspondence with organs of state i.e. notifying them of the EIA process, providing them an opportunity to review and comment on the draft SR and attempts to obtain comments on the draft SR are included in Appendix C4 of the final SR.</p>
	<p>d) Specialist Assessments i) An Air Quality and Climate Change impact assessment must be undertaken.</p>		<p>An Air Quality Scoping Report has been undertaken and is included as Appendix H of the FSR. The Climate Change Impact Assessment will be undertaken for the EIA phase of the project when the technology alternatives have been clearly defined and assessed. A detailed plan of study (Chapter 10) for the Air Quality and Climate Change Impact Assessment has been included in the Scoping Report and will be undertaken in the EIA.</p>
	<p>ii) Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of infrastructure positions, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisation.</p>		<p>The specialist studies to be undertaken in the EIA Phase will contain detailed descriptions of the methodologies used and details of infrastructure associated with the thermal facility that has been assessed.</p>
	<p>iii) The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.</p>		<p>All specialist studies to be undertaken in the EIA Phase will contain detailed descriptions of the limitations and gaps.</p>
	<p>iv) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the</p>		<p>No contradicting recommendations were provided by the specialist studies for the thermal facility and</p>

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	<p>most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p>		<p>associated infrastructure. Should there be any contradicting recommendations in the EIA phase, the EAP will clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p>
	<p>e) <u>Cumulative Assessment</u></p> <p>i) If there are other similar facilities proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to indicate the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land. b. Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project. c. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development. d. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed. 		<p>Cumulative impacts have been identified and described Chapter 8 of the SR A cumulative assessment will be undertaken in the EIA Phase of the process in accordance with the DEFF requirements and those of the EIA Regulations..</p> <p>a)</p>

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	<p>f) Specific Comments</p> <p>i) The Air Quality and Climate Change specialist studies' terms of reference must be made available to this Department's Climate Change Directorate for comments. Proof of correspondence must be included in the public participation report.</p>		<p>The Draft Scoping Report including the Plan of Study, and all specialist studies have been submitted to the Climate Change Directorate for comment. Proof of submission is included in Appendix C5. No comments were received at the date of submission of the final report.</p>
	<p>ii) The landowner contact person is different from the applicant contact person. The EAP must submit as signed landowner consent as prescribed in terms of Regulation 39(1) of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended, and outlined in the application form, if the landowner is different from the applicant.</p>		<p>Landowner Consent has been included in Appendix 3 of the EA Application.</p>
	<p>General</p> <p>You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that: <i>"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"</i></p>		<p>The EAP acknowledges the comment from DEFF.</p>
	<p>You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping Reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended</p>		<p>The EAP acknowledges the comment from DEFF.</p>
	<p>Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these</p>		<p>The EAP acknowledges the comment from DEFF.</p>

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	Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7). You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department		The applicant is aware that construction of the thermal facility may not commence prior to receipt of the Environmental Authorisation.
2.	Interim Comment The SAHRA Archaeological, Paleontological and Meteorites (APM) requests that the EIA phase report HIA must include a field-based survey be conducted for the proposed access road. The EIA phase HIA must include a Paleontological Desktop Study as the proposed development footprint is located within an area of moderate sensitivity as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. The draft EIA and appendices must be submitted in order for informed comments can be issued. Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested documents.	Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer and Phillip Hine Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit SAHRA Letter: 16 November 2020	These requested assessments will be addressed as part of the draft EIA report. The Draft EIA report and appendices will be submitted to SAHRA for comment. The EAP acknowledges the comment from SAHRA.
3.	Please kindly provide coordinates of where the project is proposed to Mr Luzuko Nxantsiya and me. Please kindly note that we cannot be able to open the file you sent on the attachment. Please send to us the list of property descriptions (farm names and numbers including portions where applicable).	Johannes Namatatani Mineral Regulations DMRE E-mail: 19 October 2020 E-mail: 27 October 2020	The .KMZ files were e-mailed to Mr Nematatani on 20 October 2020. As requested, Messrs Nematatani and Nxantsiya have been registered on the project database as Officials representing the DMRE (please refer to Appendix C1 of the final SR). The farm names, number and portion numbers, together with the Surveyor General 21-digit codes and co-ordinates were e-mailed to the DMR on 27 October 2020.
4.	This office has no objection to the proposal. Transnet and its ODs are not affected as the site lies ± 8,61km west from the closest railway line.	V Maharaj Depot Manager Transnet Property	The EAP acknowledges the comment from Transnet.

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	Transnet Freight Rail would however, like the opportunity to re-evaluate our position with regards to this proposal once final plans have been prepared.	Letter: 16 October 2020	