

**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 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process have been included in **Appendix C6** of the Scoping Report and 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 C6** of the final Scoping Assessment Report and in the table below.

Registered I&APs were notified of the Department's acceptance of the Plan of Study for EIA on 27 January 2021. Comments received during the period of the notification and announcing the availability of the EIAR is included in **Appendix C6** of the EIAR and captured in the table below.

The EIA Report (EIAR) was available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Friday, 12 February 2021** until **Monday, 15 March 2021**. The Comments and Responses Report (C&RR) will be updated with comments received during the review and comment period and included in **Appendix C6** of the final EIAR and the C&RR will be updated with the applicable responses.

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS**

C&R	Comments and responses	C&RR	Comments and Responses Report
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
EA	Environmental Authorisation	EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report		
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	SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
SAHRIS	South African Heritage Resources Information System	SCC	Species of Conservation concern
SR	Scoping Report		

## 1. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING COMMENCEMENT OF IMPACT PHASE

### 1.1. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	<p>You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.</p> <p>In addition, the following are required for the EIAR:</p> <p><b>a) <u>Listed Activities</u></b></p> <p>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.</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 <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a>.</p> <p>iii. The EIAR must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.</p> <p><b>b) <u>Public Participation</u></b></p> <p>i. Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAR. This includes but is not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, the provincial Department of Agriculture, the Provincial Department of Transport, the local and district Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Department of Rural Development and Land</p>	<p>Herman Alberts Case Officer DEFF</p> <p>Letter: 06 January 2021</p>	<p>All relevant activities applied for in the application for Environmental Authorisation and included in the EIA Report are relevant to the Thermal Plant and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure in the project description.</p> <p>An additional listed activity has been included for the project due to the identified preferred access road being determined as that authorised for the Hyperion PV facilities. Therefore, an amended application form has been submitted with the EIA report.</p> <p>An assessment of impacts and recommended mitigation measures are included in Chapter 8 of this report.</p> <p>All comments received during the notification of the approval of the Plan of Study by the Department are included in <b>Appendix C6</b> of the EIAR and captured in the Comments and Responses Report of the EIAR. Comments received from I&amp;AP and key stakeholders during the review and comment period of the EIAR will be included in <b>Appendix C6</b> of the final EIAR and captured within the Comments and Responses Report (<b>Appendix C8</b>) of the final EIAR).</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>Reform (DRDLR), and the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Climate Change; Oceans and Coast, Biodiversity and Protected Areas Directorates.</p>		<p>Comments received on the EIAR from the various organs of state, as listed by the Department, will be included in <b>Appendix C6</b> of the final EIAR and captured in the Comments and Responses Report (<b>Appendix C8</b>) of the final EIAR.</p> <p>The DEFF: Oceans and Coast Directorate is not applicable to this application as the proposed development is located inland of the Northern Cape Province and not near any ocean shorelines.</p>
	<p>ii. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state (including this Department's Climate Change; Oceans and Coast, Biodiversity and Protected Areas Directorates), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the EIAR.</p>		<p>All comments received from I&amp;APs and organs of state during the review and comment period of the SR have been included within this Comments and Responses Report (<b>Appendix C8</b> of the EIAR) and have been addressed appropriately.</p> <p>The DEFF: Oceans and Coast Directorate is not applicable to this application as the proposed development is located inland of the Northern Cape Province and not near any ocean shorelines.</p>
	<p>iii. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the draft EIAR. 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>Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders during the scoping phase, the notification of commencement of the impact phase and the notification of the availability of the EIAR are included in <b>Appendices C4</b> and <b>C5</b> of the EIAR.</p> <p>Proof of attempts to obtain comments from I&amp;APs, organs of state and key stakeholders will be included in <b>Appendices C4</b> and <b>C5</b> of the final EIAR.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>iv. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 <b>Appendix C9</b> of the EIAR.</p> <p>A notification letter was sent to all registered I&amp;APs and organs of state on the project's database on 27 January 2021, notifying them that the Department had accepted the SR and approved the Plan of Study for EIA (proof included <b>Appendices C4</b> and <b>C5</b> of the EIAR).</p> <p>The availability of the EIAR was advertised in the Kathu Gazette newspaper on 06 February 2021 (refer to <b>Appendix C2</b> of the EIAR) and a notification letter was sent to all registered I&amp;APs on the project's database on 10 February 2021 notifying them of the availability of the EIAR (notification letter and proof of distribution is included in <b>Appendices C4</b> and <b>C5</b> of the EIAR).</p> <p>The commenting authority and various organs of state received personalised letter on 10 and 11 February 2021, informing them of the availability of the EIAR (refer to <b>Appendix C4</b> of the EIAR).</p> <p>The EIAR was also made available for download from Savannah Environmental's website and available on CD and via Dropbox or WeTransfer, upon request.</p>
	<p>v. The EIAR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development</p>		<p>Proof of notification of the availability of the EIAR to the relevant competent and commenting authorities are included in <b>Appendix C4</b> of the EIAR.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>particularly, the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, and the District and Local Municipalities.</p>		
	<p>vi. A Comments and Response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&amp;R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;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&amp;APs' comments</p>		<p>A comments and responses report has been drafted and included as a separate appendix to the EIAR (refer to <b>Appendix C8</b> of the EIAR). 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 'noted'.</p>
	<p><b>c) <u>Layout &amp; Sensitivity Maps</u></b> i. The EIAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.</p>		<p>A detailed Layout Map indicating coordinates of proposed infrastructure is included in <b>Appendix Q</b>.</p>
	<p>ii. Please provide a layout map which indicates the following: a) Positions of the power island, turbine and generator, fuel storage tanks, water storage reservoir and tanks, water and gas supply pipelines; b) Permanent laydown area footprint; c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed); d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint; e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and f) All existing infrastructure on the site.</p>		<p>A detailed Layout Map indicating all proposed infrastructure is included in <b>Appendix Q</b>.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>iii. Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;</li> <li>b) Buffer areas; and,</li> <li>c) All "no-go" areas.</li> </ul>		<p>An Environmental Sensitivity Map indicating all environmentally sensitive features is included in <b>Appendix Q</b>.</p>
	<p>iv. 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 combined Layout and Environmental Sensitivity Map indicating all environmentally sensitive features and proposed infrastructure is included in <b>Appendix Q</b>.</p>
	<p><b>d) Specialist assessments</b></p> <p>i. 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 limitations and assumptions of specialist are detailed in the relevant specialist studies (<b>Appendix D to Appendix M</b>)</p>
	<p>ii. 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>Chapter 10 of this EIA Report contains a summary of recommendations and conclusions made by specialists. No contradicting recommendations have been made.</p>
	<p>iii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p>		<p>A Cumulative Map indicating all relevant developments within 30km of the proposed project is included in <b>Appendix Q</b></p>
	<p><b>e) Cumulative Assessment</b></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>		<p>Chapter 9 of this EIA report contains an assessment of cumulative impacts associated with the Hyperion Thermal Plant.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	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.		Chapter 9 of this EIA report and the relevant specialist report ( <b>Appendix D</b> to <b>Appendix M</b> ) contain an assessment of cumulative impacts associated with the Hyperion Thermal Plant.
	c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.		A conclusion and recommendation regarding cumulative impact are included in Chapter 10 of this EIA Report. This has informed the need and desirability for the project detailed in Chapter 5.
	d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.		A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed is included in Chapter 10.
	<p><b>f) General</b></p> <p>i. The Air Quality and Climate Change specialist studies' terms of reference (TORs) must be made available to this Department's Climate Change</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 <b>Appendix C5</b> . No comments were received at the date of submission of the final Scoping report.
	The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amendment, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.		The EAP acknowledges the comment from DEFF.
	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. COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER FINAL SCOPING REPORT SUBMISSION

### 1.2. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
1.	The following recommendations must be considered during the next EIA Phase:	Mmatlala Rabothata Case Officer DEFF: Biodiversity Conservation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An ecologist must be appointed to perform a final walkthrough prior to finalisation of the final phase of the EIA, to identify all sensitive plant species and assist in identifying the areas that require protection.</li> </ul>	Letter: 17 November 2020	A walkthrough was undertaken during December 2020 by Simon Todd (3Foxes Biodiversity). NFA listed tree species assessed onsite include <i>Vachellia erioloba</i> , <i>Vachellia haematoxylon</i> , and <i>Boscia albitrunca</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Search and rescue plan for the identified plant Species of Conservation concern (SCC) must be developed.</li> </ul>		A Search and Rescue Plan is included in <b>Appendix D</b> of the EMPr of the EIA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All protected fauna and flora species of conservation concern must not be destroyed or removed prior to permit approval from relevant National and Provincial authorities.</li> </ul>		Permits for removal of NFA protected species will be submitted to Northern Cape DAEARD&LR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erosion and Alien Invasive plant species Management Plan and Rehabilitation Plan must be developed and submitted as part of the final report to mitigate on habitat degradation due to erosion and alien plant invasion.</li> </ul>		An Alien Plant and Open Space Management Plan is included in <b>Appendix C</b> of the EMPr of the EIA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A full biodiversity assessment must be undertaken to determine the sensitivity of the site and the potential impacts to the study areas.</li> </ul>		A both a terrestrial assessment ( <b>Appendix D</b> of the EIA) and avifaunal assessment ( <b>Appendix E</b> of the EIA) has been undertaken for the EIA.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The significance of the cumulative impacts must be assessed in details within the impact assessment phase of the EIA process.</li> </ul>		Cumulative impacts have been assessed in both the terrestrial assessment ( <b>Appendix D</b> of the EIA) and avifaunal assessment ( <b>Appendix E</b> of the EIA) undertaken for the EIA.

## 3. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING COMMENCEMENT OF THE EIA PROCESS

No comments received

#### 4. COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING SCOPING REPORT REVIEW and COMMENT PERIOD

##### 1.3. Organs of State

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
2.	<p>The following information must be included in the final SR</p> <p><b>a) <u>Listed Activities</u></b></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>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 <a href="https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms">https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms</a></p> <p><b>b) <u>Layout &amp; Sensitivity Maps</u></b></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>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>No changes to the listed activities have been made for the final Scoping Report.</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> <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>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
			<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><b>c) <u>Public Participation Process</u></b></p> <p>i) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&amp;APs and organs of state including this Department's Climate Change Section' which have</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</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>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>ii) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 &amp; 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.</p>		<p>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 <b>Appendix C5</b> of the final SR.</p> <p>Proof of correspondence with organs of state and proof of attempts to obtain comments are included in <b>Appendix C4</b> of the final SR.</p> <p>The Public Participation Process has been conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 &amp; 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 <b>Appendix C9</b> of the final SR.</p> <p>I&amp;APs and organs of state were notified of the commencement of the EIA process as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The BID, accompanied by a cover letter and registration &amp; comment form, was emailed to those I&amp;APs identified and the relevant organs of state on 14 October 2020 (refer to <b>Appendices C4 &amp; C5</b> of the final SR).</li> <li>• an advertisement was placed in the Kathu Gazette newspaper on 17 October 2020 (tearsheet included in <b>Appendix C2</b> of the final SR).</li> <li>• Live reads on Radio Riverside 98.2 FM (refer to <b>Appendix C2</b> of the final SR. for live read schedule).</li> </ul>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
			<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"> <li>• Advertised in the Kathu Gazette newspaper on 17 October 2020 (tear sheets included in <b>Appendix C2</b> of the final SR).</li> <li>• Notification letter was sent to all registered I&amp;APs and Organs of State on the project database (<b>Appendix C1</b> of the final SR) informing them of the availability of the draft SR for review and comment.</li> </ul> <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 <b>Appendix C2</b> of the final SR.</p>
	<p>iii) A comments and response trail report (C&amp;R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&amp;R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&amp;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 comments letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&amp;APs. All comments from I&amp;APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as 'Noted' is not</p>		<p>A comments and responses report (COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT) has been drafted and included as a separate appendix to the final SR (refer to <b>Appendix C8</b> 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 'noted'. Where additional work is required to address these within the EIA Phase of the process, this has been indicated.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.		
	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.		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 <b>Appendix C4</b> of the final SR.
	<b>d) Specialist Assessments</b> i) An Air Quality and Climate Change impact assessment must be undertaken.		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.
	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.		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.
	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.		All specialist studies to be undertaken in the EIA Phase will contain detailed descriptions of the limitations and gaps.
	iv) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons and where necessary, include further expertise advice.		No contradicting recommendations were provided by the specialist studies for the thermal facility and 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

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p><b>e) <u>Cumulative Assessment</u></b></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"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>c. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.</li> <li>d. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.</li> </ul> <p><b>f) <u>Specific Comments</u></b></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</p>		<p>reasons and where necessary, include further expertise advice.</p> <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> <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</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	<p>comments. Proof of correspondence must be included in the public participation report.</p>		<p>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><b>General</b></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&amp;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 Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).</p>		<p>The EAP acknowledges the comment from DEFF.</p>
	<p>You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as</p>		<p>The applicant is aware that construction of the thermal facility may not commence prior to receipt of the Environmental Authorisation.</p>

NO.	COMMENT	RAISED BY	RESPONSE
	amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department		
2.	<p><b>Interim Comment</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Natasha Higgitt Heritage Officer and Phillip Hine Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit SAHRA</p>	<p>These requested assessments will be addressed as part of the draft EIA report.</p>
	The draft EIA and appendices must be submitted in order for informed comments can be issued.	Letter: 16 November 2020	The Draft EIA report and appendices will be submitted to SAHRA for comment.
	Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the above requested documents.		The EAP acknowledges the comment from SAHRA.
3.	<p>Please kindly provide coordinates of where the project is proposed to Mr Luzuko Nxantsiya and me.</p>	<p>Johannes Namatatani Mineral Regulations DMRE</p>	<p>The .KMZ files were e-mailed to Mr Nematatani on 20 October 2020.</p>
	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).	E-mail: 19 October 2020	As requested, Messrs Nematatani and Nxantsiya have been registered on the project database as Officials representing the DMRE (please refer to <b>Appendix C1</b> of the final SR).
		E-mail: 27 October 2020	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.	<p>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.</p> <p>Transnet Freight Rail would however, like the opportunity to re-evaluate our position with regards to this proposal once final plans have been prepared.</p>	<p>V Maharaj Depot Manager Transnet Property</p>	The EAP acknowledges the comment from Transnet.
		Letter: 16 October 2020	

