

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN
IN TERMS OF THE DIRECTIONS REGARDING MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND
COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 RELATING TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PERMITS AND LICENCES DURING COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 1**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF 132KV GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE HYPERION
HYBRID FACILITY, NEAR KATHU, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
Application to be submitted**

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on the commencement and continuation of the public consultation as part of a Basic Assessment process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the DEFF, to cater for the conducting of the public participation process which includes I&APs, the competent authority, directly impacted landowners/occupiers, adjacent landowners/occupiers, relevant Organs of State departments, Municipalities, ward councillors and other key stakeholders.

Project Details:

Hyperion Solar Development (Pty) Ltd proposes the development of a 132kV overhead power line to connect the authorised Hyperion PV Solar Energy Facility complex and proposed Thermal Dual Fuel facility to the national grid via the existing Eskom Kalbas substation. The proposed grid connection infrastructure is 8km long and includes an assessment corridor of 300m.

Public Participation Plan:

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed project is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs;
- » participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project; and
- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the BA process.

Alternative means of undertaking consultation has been designed and will be implemented by Savannah Environmental to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project through an interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person illustrating interest in the project and enables the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. This online stakeholder engagement platform allows the EAP to visually present details regarding the project and our consultation documentation, including project maps and plans, presentations and posters regarding the project, and reports available for review. The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time, and allow them to participate in a meaningful way in the consultation process. The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting. The online stakeholder engagement platform considers the limitations applied by the Disaster Management Act Regulations prohibiting the gathering of people, as well as limitations which certain I&APs may have in terms of access to computers and internet as well as access to public spaces not open for operation or which have restricted access.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.
- Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the project database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive project documentation.
- Enabling the EAP to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities i.e. access to internet, mobile phones, or computers, provision has been made to include these I&APs in the consultation process by consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members.

The schematic illustration below provides an overview of the tools that are available to I&APs and stakeholders to access project information and interact with the public

participation team to obtain project information and resolve any queries that may arise, and to meet the requirements for public participation.

<p>i. Stakeholder identification and register of I&APs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register as an I&AP on the online platform via completion of a form and provision of contact information, by responding to an advert, or sending a 'please call me' which will be responded to • State interest in the project • Receive all project related information via email
<p>ii. Advertisements and notifications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements, site notices, and/or radio adverts and notifications provide information and details on where to access project information • Notifications regarding the BA process, the BA process and availability of project reports for public review to be sent via email, post or SMS notifications
<p>iii. Public Involvement and consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of a BID providing details on the project and how I&APs can become involved in the process • Submission of comments or queries via the online platform to the PP team • Virtual presentations (English) available via the online platform • Availability of project information via the online platform • An opportunity for I&APs and stakeholders to request virtual meetings with the project team
<p>iv. Comment on the BA Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of the project reports via the online platform for 30-day comment period • Submission of comments via the online platform, email or post to the PP team • Comments recorded and responded to, as part of the process
<p>v. Identification and recording of comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments and Responses Report, including all comments received, and included within the final Report for decision-making

The PP plan, as set out in the table below, has been drafted for the above-mentioned project to ensure that reasonable opportunity is provided to I&APs and that all administrative actions are reasonable. Proof of all notifications will be included in the public participation appendix included in the BA reports.

The PP plan is submitted to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for discussion and agreement before the PP process is undertaken for the proposed project.

Public Participation Plan: Discussion of approach and methodology to meet the requirements of the Regulations

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
<p>Regulation 40(1), Regulation 40(3) & Regulation 43 – provide all potential or registered interested and affected parties, including the competent authority, access to project related information, access to the BA reports which will be made available for a period of at least 30 days to submit comments on draft reports prior to submission of final reports for decision-making.</p>	<p><u>Notification of BA process to be undertaken for application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) to be distributed using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail • Dedicated project page on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform • Post • Process notices placed at locations that are accessible to I&APs • Advertisement in the printed media. <p><u>Notification of availability of reports and period for review using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper adverts, including details of where the report can be accessed and details of the Savannah Environmental website. • Notification letter (to be sent via email, fax or post) to registered I&APs. • Notifications to communities via Ward Councillor, ward committee members, identified and confirmed community representatives, and local community forum members. • SMS and/ or WhatsApp notifications where no other means are available. <p><u>Availability of reports for review:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports available on the Savannah Environmental website for download. • Electronic copies can be made available to parties via a secure Dropbox link that will be emailed upon request for the documentation. • CDs to be posted, if requested. • Hard copy reports to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained. • Report will be submitted to the DEA using the DEA online portal.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report will be submitted to Organs of State and commenting authorities via an agreed electronic platform (such as on CD, or via a secure Dropbox link). <p><u>Submission of comments to EAP:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A customised reply form is available on this webpage. • The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting. • Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax. • Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments.
<p>Regulation 40(2) - Provide access to all project information that has the potential to influence any decision regarding the application, unless protected by law, and must include consultation with Competent Authority, Organs of State & registered I&APs.</p> <p>Regulation 41(6) – Relevant information available and accessible</p>	<p>Provision of project information and consultation via various means including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephonic consultation. • Email correspondence. • Correspondence sent via post. • SMS and/or WhatsApp. • The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform will ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to participate in the project and raise comments on the project to any person with interest in the BA process project. This online stakeholder engagement platform which will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A means to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project ○ Background information on the project ○ Project maps (including locality map, layout map, sensitivity map, landowner map, etc)

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Photos of the project site and surrounds ○ Presentation with narration providing a summary of the project details and the findings of the BA reports ○ Posters providing a summary of the findings of the BA ○ A means of submitting written comment or queries. ● Virtual meetings using an appropriate platform agreeable to all parties (such as Zoom, Skype or Teams). The meeting will be recorded, and the attendees' details captured in an attendance register. Confirmation of their attendance will also be requested by e-mail and the correspondence will be included in the report. ● Communities will be consulted via the relevant Ward Councillor, ward committee members, community representative or local community forum members, as determined and confirmed during the consultation process.
Regulation 41(2)(a) – Site notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Site notices will be placed at affected properties by the EAP, landowner or specialist, depending on specific travel restrictions applicable at the time. ● Size and content will be in accordance with Regulation 41(3) & 41(4).
Regulation 41(2)(b) – Written notification to affected and neighbouring landowners and occupiers; municipality; ward councillors; Organs of State & other parties required by the CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notification letter to be sent via email, fax or post.
Regulation 41(2)(c) – (e) – Advertisements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adverts to be placed in a local newspaper. ● Process notices (A4 size) with site notice details will be placed at public places that are frequented by and accessible to community members during Alert Level 1.
Regulation 42 – Project database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I&APs to be identified through a process of networking and referral, obtaining information from the Savannah Environmental existing stakeholder database, liaison with potentially affected parties in the greater surrounding area and a registration process involving the completion of a reply form.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organs of State, key stakeholders and affected and surrounding landowners will be identified and registered on the project database. • Other stakeholders will be required to formally register their interest in the project through either directly contacting the Savannah Environmental Public Participation team via email or fax or use of the Savannah Environmental website. • In order to access the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform for a specific project, I&APs will be required to provide their details such that they are automatically registered on the project database. • The register of I&APs will contain the names of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all persons who requested to be registered on the database through the use of the Savannah Environmental website, or in writing and disclosed their interest in the project; ○ all Organs of State which hold jurisdiction in respect of the activity to which the application relates; and ○ all persons who submitted written comments or attended virtual meetings and viewed virtual presentations on the Savannah Environmental website during the public participation process. • The information captured on the project database will contain the names, organisation and contact details, as required.
Regulation 44 – Comments to be recorded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments will be able to be submitted directly to the EAP using the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform. A customised reply form is available on this webpage. • The Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A means to register on the project database and provide details of their interest in the project ○ A means of submitting written comment or queries.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting. • Written comments can also be submitted via email, post or fax. • Any comments provided telephonically or via instant message will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. • I&APs without the applicable electronic facilities to access the Savannah Environmental website will be provided with the opportunity to submit their comments and communicate with the public participation team via SMS, WhatsApp or by sending a Please-call-me notification. These comments will be transcribed and recorded as formal comments. • All comments received throughout the BA process will be acknowledged and captured in the comments and responses report (C&RR) with a relevant response. • The C&RR will be included in the final report submitted to the CA.
Regulation 4(2) – Notification of decision on application	<p><u>Notification of Environmental Authorisation (EA) using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter with details as outlined in EA issued will be sent via email, fax or post. • Notification will be available on the Savannah Environmental website • Notifications that the EA has been issued and where to download and/or obtain a copy to communities via Ward Councillor and his/her ward committee members and identified and confirmed community representatives. • SMS or WhatsApp notification.

Arlene Singh

From: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, 15 October 2020 14:06
To: Arlene Singh; Herman Alberts
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach; Magdalena Michalowska; Janine Brasington; Tim Szoke; Jana de Jager; Jo-Anne Thomas
Subject: RE: 2020-10-0008

Dear Arlene.

The PP plans are approved.

Regards

Muhammad Essop

Assistant Director – Priority Infrastructure Projects

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

☎ (012) 399 9406

✉ MEssop@environment.gov.za

From: Arlene Singh <arlene@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 10:25
To: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>; Magdalena Michalowska <m.michalowska@redrocket.energy>; Janine Brasington <j.brasington@redrocket.energy>; Tim Szoke <t.szoke@redrocket.energy>; Jana de Jager <Jana@savannahsa.com>; Jo-Anne Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: 2020-10-0008
Importance: High

Good morning all,

As per the communication below please find attached the Public Participation Plans for the following:

- 1) The Hyperion Thermal Generation Facility and;
- 2) The associated 132kV Powerline.

Note that separate applications will be lodged for the thermal facility and powerline.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries. Thank you.

Kind regards,

savannah
environmental

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Arlene Singh
Environmental Consultant

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c: +27 (0) 84 277 7074

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Subject: RE: 2020-10-0008

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From: Arlene Singh <arlene@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 15:42
To: Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>
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Importance: High

Hi Muhammad,

Just following up on this request. Please let me know it will be possible to submit the PP Plans for approval as the application and DSR for the thermal facility will be submitted on Friday this week in order to meet the deadline for the Emergency bid round. Thank you.

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c: +27 (0) 84 277 7074

From: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 October 2020 10:18
To: Arlene Singh <arlene@savannahsa.com>
Subject: FW: 2020-10-0008
Importance: High

fyi

EIA Applications
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

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You are advised that this mailbox has a 48 hour response time.

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From: EIA Applications
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2020 12:24
To: Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Coenrad Agenbach <Cagenbach@environment.gov.za>
Subject: 2020-10-0008
Importance: High

Dear Herman.

Please note that you have been allocated an application:

Type of Application: Pre-Application Meeting Request;
Reference Number: 2020-10-0008;
Date Received: 07/10/2020;
Action Required: Decide on meeting request.

Kindly let Ephron know which date the meeting is to be held, if it will be set.

*EAP/Applicant: please use this reference number when submitting the application for EA/amendment application (page 1 of the application form), as well as attach the approved PP Plan if the application requires a PP process.

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To: EIA Applications <EIAApplications@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Jana de Jager <Jana@savannahsa.com>; Janine Brasington <j.brasington@redrocket.energy>; Magdalena Michalowska <m.michalowska@redrocket.energy>; Tim Szoke <t.szoke@redrocket.energy>
Subject: Pre-Application Request- DEVELOPMENT OF A THERMAL POWER DUAL FACILITY WITH ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE & 132KV GRID CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE TO FORM PART OF THE AUTHORISED HYPERION 1 & 2 SOLAR PV ENERGY FACILITIES, NEAR KATHU, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
Importance: High

Good day,

Please find herewith attached the Pre-Application Meeting Request for the Development of a Thermal Power Dual Fuel Facility with associated infrastructure (Scoping & EIA Process) & 132KV Grid Connection Infrastructure (Basic Assessment Process) to form part of the authorised Hyperion 1 & 2 Solar Energy Facilities, near Kathu, Northern Cape Province.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and obtain approval of the proposed public participation plans and confirm the listed activities and specialist studies associated with the each process. A pre-application meeting is requested as soon as possible and at your earliest possible convenience.

Please confirm receipt of the request.

Kindly advise should you require any further information. Thank you.



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SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

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