

**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 3**

**Korana Solar Energy Facility (WEF) and Associated Infrastructure, Northern Cape
Province
Application for Amendment 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 an EIA process. Considering these limitations, the following consultation process has been designed and will be implemented, on approval by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), to cater for the facilitation of the public participation process which includes Interested and Affected Parties (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:

The Applicant, South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing an amendment to Environmental Authorisation issued on the 19 May 2015 for the Korana Solar Energy Facility (DEA Ref:..14/12/16/3/3/2/683).

In the Environmental Impact Assessment Report dated 2015, two access road alternatives were proposed and assessed, i.e. Alternative 1 (Namies Suid North) and Alternative 2 (Poortjies South).

- **Alternative 1 (Namies Suid North)** – This route is an existing gravel road which is approximately 49.5km long with an average width of about 7.5 m. For the Namies Suid North access adjustments to the width and vertical alignment will have to be undertaken before safe abnormal load access can be guaranteed. There are also sections through the proposed land parcels that may require widening to accommodate abnormal load access. Approximately 5.3 km of new road will have to be constructed within the site.
- **Alternative 2 (Poortjies South)** – This route is an existing gravel road that is approximately 63km long with an average width of about 10 m. The access road is longer but has a more suitable vertical and horizontal alignment for abnormal access. There is only one corner that may require horizontal re-alignment within the current road reserve.

As a result of the required adjustments required for Alternative 1, as detailed above, South African Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is requesting the DEA to amend the authorised access road alternative (Alternative 1) in the Environmental Authorisation dated 19 May 2015 (as amended) to Alternative 2. It is anticipated that this would be a Part 2 amendment process.

Project Location: The project site is located in the Khai-Ma Local Municipality, Namakwa District Municipality, Northern Cape Province on Portion 2 of the farm Namies Suid 212.

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 EIA process.

The traditional means and opportunities available for the undertaking of public participation is still covered and implemented as part of this plan considering the current limitations. Alternative means of undertaking consultation other than face to face public or focus group meetings 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 which can be accessed via desktop and mobile with internet access allows the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (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 through use of telephonic and written consultation or 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 registration 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 notifications provide information and details on where to access project information • Notifications regarding the Amendment 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 notification letter 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 (both English and Afrikaans) 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 Report</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 Motivation report.

The PP plan is submitted to DEA, 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 Motivation report 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 Part 2 Amendment application process to be undertaken for the project 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 report and period for review using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper advert, 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 report for review:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report 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 report to be available only where appropriate sanitary conditions can be maintained.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report will be submitted to DEA using the DEA online portal. • 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 Amendment process for the 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;

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project maps (including locality map, layout map, sensitivity map, landowner map, etc); ○ Photos of the project site and surrounds; ○ Presentation with narration providing a summary of the project details and the findings of the Motivation report; ○ Posters providing a summary of the findings of the Motivation report; ○ 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. Registered I&APs will also be able to access the web based platform during the virtual meeting should they wish to refer to project specific documentation. • 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, sms/WhatsApp, fax or post.
Regulation 41(2)(c) – (e) – Advertisements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advert 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 3.
Regulation 42 – Project database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I&APs to be identified through a process of networking and referral, obtaining

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<p>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.</p> <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:

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<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. • 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 EIA 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 competent authority.
<p>Regulation 4(2) – Notification of decision on application</p>	<p><u>Notification of Environmental Authorisation Amendment Decision using the following means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification letter with details as outlined in Amended EA issued will be sent via email, fax or post. • Notification will be available on the Savannah Environmental website • Notifications that the Amended 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.

Regulation	Approach & Methodology to meet requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="943 236 1384 261">• SMS or WhatsApp notification.