

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED KAROO
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA
WEST, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

DEA Reference Number: 12/12/20/1993

**COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT AS PART OF THE DRAFT EIA
REPORT**

March 2011



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1. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT

The Comments and Responses Report (C&RR) includes the comments received during the Public Participation Process undertaken as part of the Scoping and EIA process for the proposed project (August 2010 to March 2011). This includes responses to the advertisements, site notices, Background Information Documents (BID), meetings, written comments received and individual discussions with key stakeholders.

The Comments and Responses Report has the following objectives:

- To provide a formal and integrated record of all the issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to date and the responses provided by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Team and project proponent during the Scoping Phases of the project.
- To provide a mechanism that allows all parties participating in the process (including the environmental authorities) to verify whether the issues raised have been considered and, where appropriate, adequately addressed by the EIA Study Team.

This document forms part of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) to be submitted to the decision making authorities, the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The Draft EIA Report would be available for public review from 1 April 2011 to 5 May 2011. The Final Scoping Report (FSR) was submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) on 20 December 2010 for their review and acceptance. Acceptance of the Final Scoping Report was received from DEA on the 25th March 2011.

The C&RR has been periodically updated to ensure that the document remains updated as new issues were raised throughout the process. Upon completion of the Public Review Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), the C&RR will be updated to include comments made on the DEIR.

2. HOW ISSUES HAVE BEEN RAISED

Issues have been raised and recorded through a variety of mechanisms. These include:

- Comments sheets received by fax, and/or e-mail;
- Comments sent to the public participation office via e-mails;
- Comments received during meetings held; and
- Comments received telephonically.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

The identification of I&APs was undertaken through the following mechanisms:

3.1 Contacting authorities

Relevant government departments, municipalities and the affected ward councillors were contacted to inform them of the proposed project and to obtain their issues and comments in this regard.

3.2 Newspaper advertisement

The formal announcement of the proposed project was done by placing an advert in the Victoria West Messenger and the Courier (local newspapers) on Friday 13 August 2010 to invite all Interested and Affected (I&APs) to register. The objective of this newspaper advertisement was to:

- Inform I&APs of the proposed project;
- Inform I&APs of the EIA procedure and the way in which I&APs could lodge any objections to the proposed development and provide comments; and
- Invite I&APs to become involved in the proposed project by registering as I&APs.

Advertisements to advertise the availability of the DSR were placed in the Victoria West Messenger and the Courier on 12 November 2010.

Advertisements to advertise the availability of the draft EIA Report and draft EMP were placed in the Victoria West Messenger and the Courier on 1 April 2011.

3.3 Site Notice

Six site notice boards (A2 size) were placed at the following places on 4 and 5 October 2010:

- Five site notices in total were placed on-site. Two of these site notices were placed along a secondary road which follows the alignment of the railway line on the Farms Nobelsfontein 227 and Ezelsfontein 235. A third one was put up at the existing Biesiespoort Substation which is located on Nobelsfontein 227, and the fourth site notice was erected next to the secondary road which traverses Modderfontein 228. The fifth site notice was erected along the same secondary road traversing the northern section of the Farm Phaisantkraal 1.
- One notice was placed at the Ubuntu Local Municipality's office in Victoria-West;

In addition, A4 notices were placed at the following places in Victoria-West:

- One notice was placed at the Victoria-West Co-Operative;
- One notice was placed at the Victoria-West Library;
- One notice was placed at the Victoria-West Police Station; and
- One notice was placed at the Victoria West Post Office.

These posters included information regarding the intended project, the public participation process and contact details of the public participation consultants.

3.4 Background Information Documents

The Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the database received Background Information Documents via e-mail and fax. In addition Background Information Documents (BIDs) were distributed at the following places in Victoria-West on 5 October 2010:

- Victoria-West Library: 30 BIDs
- Victoria-West Police Station: 15 BIDs
- Victoria-West Co-operative: 10 BIDs
- Ubuntu Local Municipality: 30 BIDs

3.5 Landowner Identification Process

In terms of Regulation 56(2) (b) of Government Notice R385, the public participation process has contacted the stakeholders that could potentially be affected by the proposed development. This includes the directly affected landowners, the neighbours within 100 m of the boundary of the site, municipalities and government departments. Personalised letters, faxes and e-mails were sent to these identified stakeholders to inform them of the project and invite participation. BIDs accompanied this correspondence.

3.6 Stakeholder Consultation: Scoping and EIA Phase

The public participation process has been structured in a manner that allowed for consultation with I&APs at various levels and with different focus groups, which included:

- Key stakeholder group: Ubuntu Local Municipality (meeting held on 5 October 2010);
- Key stakeholder group: Landowners (meetings held on 5 October 2010);
- Focus Group Meeting: Ubuntu Local Municipality (meeting held on 23 March 2011)
- Focus Group Meeting: Representatives of the Beaufort West Local Municipality and Central Karoo District Municipality (meeting held on 22 March 2011); and
- Individual discussion with property owners throughout the process.

A full list of stakeholders that have registered as I&APs is included in the document – Refer to Appendix A).

3.7 Public Meeting: EIA Phase

A Public meeting was held on 23 March 2011 in Victoria West to present the findings of the specialist's studies and to discuss the way-forward in terms of the EIA process. The public meeting was also advertised in the Victoria West Messenger and the Courier (local newspapers) on Friday 11 March 2011 to invite all Interested and Affected (I&APs) to the meeting.

All comments raised during the review period will be considered and incorporated into the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for submission to DEA.

4. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REGISTER

The Comments and Responses Report includes the comments received during the Public Participation Process undertaken to date for the proposed project.

4.1 General

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.1.1	What type of impacts can be expected?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The main possible impacts of a project of this nature relate to the biophysical environment such as possible impacts on avifauna, the ecology, the agricultural potential and geological (underlying soil conditions and erosion potential). Possible impacts on the social environment include aspects such as possible visual impact and aesthetics, heritage sites, social impacts and noise. The anticipated impacts will be scoped and assessed throughout the EIA process to determine the impacts of this project on the surrounding environment.
4.1.2	Would all this information be documented?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The information provided would be made available through minutes of meetings, the Scoping Report and eventually the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. It is thus critical for the representatives of the local municipality to take part in the EIA project, to study the reports that would be made

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
				available and to provide comments on and inputs into these documents.
4.1.3	What is the timeframe of the project?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	An EIA usually takes between seven months to a year to complete. The details of specific timeframes would be communicated to the Local Municipality.
4.1.4	Where can they obtain more information about the applicant, SARGE?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Interested parties can visit SARGE's website for more information. SARGE (South African Renewable Green Energy (Pty) Ltd.) is involved with different potential wind energy projects in South Africa.
4.1.5	Would like to be registered as an I&AP	Reply Form Faxed: Received 29 October 2010	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	Comment Noted
4.1.6	He has no objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Schoeman – adjacent property owner - farm Kookfontein 226	Comment Noted
4.1.7	He has no objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05	Mr. H. Marais - adjacent property owner - Modderfontein 228 and	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
		October 2010	Phaisantkraal 1	
4.1.8	He has no objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. J. de Klerk - adjacent property owner - farm Mordant Klaassenskraal 14	Comment Noted
4.1.9	What are the impacts that can be expected?	Reply Form Faxed: Received 12 October 2010	Mr. Danie Marais – adjacent property owner – farm Taayboschfontein 15	The main possible impacts of a project of this nature relate to the biophysical environment such as possible impacts on avifauna, the ecology, the agricultural potential and geological (underlying soil conditions and erosion potential). Possible impacts on the social environment include aspects such as possible visual impact and aesthetics, heritage sites, social impacts and noise. The anticipated impacts will be scoped and assessed throughout the EIA process to determine the impacts of this project on the surrounding environment.
4.1.10	The LED Manager of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality pledges her support for the project. The project falls	Comments e-mailed: received on 25 October 2010	Mr. Sindisile Madyo: LED Manager: Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	<p>within the ambits of the Pixley ka Seme Renewable Energy Hub, which is a key ingredient of the District Industrialization process. It conforms with the broader vision of Rural Energy IDZ's linked to other economic development nodes i.e. Square Kilometre Array Telescope development zone extending to about 200km from the core project. This project will further give effect to the development of the N12 economic node linking Ubuntu and Emthanjeni Municipalities respectively. This project complements the Upington-DeAar Solar Corridor (Upington, Grobelaarshoop, Prieska and DeAar) envisaged by the Department of Energy.</p>			
4.1.11	<p>The project is aligned to the District vision with regard to diverse generation sources. The Investment & Renewable Energy Conference held on 26-29 September 2010, endorsed the statement drawn from the Renewable Energy Hub Concept document which states that " Pixley ka Seme District is</p>	<p>Comments e-mailed: received on 25 October 2010</p>	<p>Mr. Sindisile Madyo: LED Manager: Pixley ka Seme District Municipality</p>	<p>Comment Noted</p>

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	<p>a part of the Karoo that is unspoilt, unpolluted environment of abundant natural resources ideal for the development of a Renewable Energy Hub. Blessed with much sunshine (solar), steady winds (wind turbines), vegetation (bio-mass) and plentiful water (hydro), it is well positioned to answer the call for more green power. It is said that the rivers of the Karoo flow underground, a fact supported by the number of wind-pumps sucking water from subterranean depths to supply livestock drinking troughs and farmsteads. However, it must be remembered that a major portion of the Orange River – over 500kms worth - flows through the Karoo. Two large dams are found along this watercourse, the Vanderkloof Dam (second largest in South Africa). The Vaal River at Douglas adds to this profusion of water, yet, in terms of a renewable energy infrastructure, these resources remain virtually untapped. The LED Unit endorses the project without any reservations.</p>			
4.1.12	A final layout needs to be provided,	Written comments	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham:	A layout will be provided during the

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	which at the very least provides an indication of agreed to “no-go” areas. This must be included in the Final EIR which is submitted for approval.	faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	CapeNature	EIA phase. Any “no-go” areas will be identified in the EIA Report. These areas will be considered in the final design of the facility.
4.1.13	Whilst CapeNature understands the need for development of renewable energy facilities, the footprint of these facilities is considerable and careful placing of turbines and infrastructure is essential if direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity are to be deemed acceptable. CapeNature suggests that the exact layout of the proposed facility should be finalised during the environmental assessment process (even if this means having to wait for additional data) as this is key to understanding the potential impacts of the proposed facility – especially a potentially large facility such as this one. The EIA report must consider alternatives – these could be alternative turbine locations number of turbines, height of turbines, as well as different locations of the associated infrastructure (roads, substations,	Written comments faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham: CapeNature	<p>A layout will be provided during the EIA phase. Alternative turbine positions will be considered in areas where environmental sensitivities are identified. The final layout will be informed by the on-site wind conditions as well as the identified environmental sensitivities. Feasible alternative routes/ corridors for the power line will be assessed during the EIA phase.</p> <p>In order to ensure that all environmental impacts are adequately assessed, the EIA report considers the worst case scenario in terms of noise from the turbines, hub heights etc.</p>

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	powerlines etc.).			
4.1.14	The applicant and consultants must demonstrate how all recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been taken into consideration. Where impacts are considered to be unavoidable, this should be clearly stated and motivated. The feasibility of all proposed mitigation measures must be confirmed prior to the application being submitted to DEA for authorisation. This must include confirmation of the possibility and the applicant's willingness to move/remove turbines and/or infrastructure out of all areas which are determined to have high ecological sensitivity before, during and even after construction.	Written comments faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham: CapeNature	All recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by the specialists will form part of the EMP that will accompany both the Draft and Final EIA reports.
4.1.15	Due to capacity constrains we are unable to provide comments on the draft Scoping and EIA reports.	Comments e-mailed: received on 13 March 2011	Tania Anderson WESSA:NC committee member	Comment Noted
4.1.16	Interested in the project and would like to register and kept informed of the process.	Comments e-mailed: received on 08 March 2011	Derick Welgemoed: General Public	The Background Information Document and maps of the study area was sent to Mr Welgemoed and he was registered on the

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
				project database.
4.1.17	When could they have copies of the specialist reports?	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 22 March 2011	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	The detailed specialist studies would form part of the draft EIA Report that would be made available for public comment. The aim is to release this document for review at the end of March 2011.
4.1.18	Is Savannah Environmental also involved with a project situated close to the Oudshoorn Road where a mast can be seen from the road?	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 22 March 2011	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	<p>Yes, they are. At the moment there are many developers with applications as part of the Eskom REFIT programme. It is anticipated that some developers would not qualify as part of this REFIT programme and that they would have to move to REFIT 2, or that they would sell the power to huge industries e.g. mines. All would depend on the economic viability and site locations.</p> <p>Explained the main components of the wind turbines, namely the tower, the nacelle and rotor. The tower heights could be up to 125m. In addition, there would be an on-site substation from where the power would be channelled to the</p>

THEME: GENERAL				
NO.	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
				existing electricity grid.
4.1.19	When did the EIA phase of the project start?	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mrs. Jill Piquer: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The EIA phase of the project started in February 2011. Notification letters were distributed to I&APs in this regard.
4.1.20	They are not of the opinion that the proposed project would result in negative impacts with regards to the functions of their various departments at the Ubuntu Local Municipality. No negative cumulative impacts are also foreseen should other similar projects be implemented.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. Manie Scholtz and Mrs. Jill Piquer: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Comment Noted
4.1.21	What are the anticipated timeframes for the project implementation?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. J.H. van der Merwe: Zwartkopjes	Should the project be awarded, construction could commence during September or October 2012. Construction would last approximately 2 years. For the wind energy facility a minimum of 12 months would be required and for the PV facility a minimum of 6 to 8 months.
4.1.22	The municipality is reviewing its Integrated Development Plan (IDP). All proposed projects should be included in this document.	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu LM	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.1.23	Has any decision been made with regards to the rezoning of the land?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	Mr. H. Jacobs would be the correct person to discuss this issue.
4.1.24	What benefits would the property owners receive as a result of the proposed project?	Comments from individual meeting held on 24 March 2011	Mr. J. Hamman – adjacent property owner – farm Three Sisters	Income from the project would go to the developer, SARGE. Should the developer rent any of the affected properties from property owners, the latter would thus receive some form of rental income.

4.2 Property Related Impacts

NO.	THEME: PROPERTY RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.2.1	Should the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility be implemented and be extended in future, the power line from the facility would probably have to be linked to the Gamma Substation which Eskom is currently constructing. His properties would then be affected as the power line would traverse the farms to link with the Gamma Substation.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Marais - adjacent property owner - Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1	Comment Noted
4.2.2	No power lines should be erected in close proximity to his dwellings (farmhouse and guest house) and the view from these dwellings should thus not be negatively influenced. Alternative route alignments to the west of the koppies should be sought.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Marais - adjacent property owner - Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1	Comment Noted

4.3 Visual Impacts

NO.	THEME: VISUAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.3.1	The proposed wind energy facility would be highly visible from his property which is situated directly to the west of the proposed wind energy facility.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Schoeman – adjacent property owner - farm Kookfontein 226	A visual impact assessment has been undertaken to determine any possible visual related impacts on the area and its surrounds.
4.3.2	Would the facility be visible from the N1 and how would this be mitigated?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Ms. M. January: ERM	The visual impact assessment took many aspects into consideration such as e.g. the viewer incidences and so forth. The areas of high impact could thus refer to areas where only a small section of the tower would be visible. All the different layers that were used to create a visual index should thus be considered when studying the visual impact assessment. Due to the height of the towers it is difficult to mitigate the visual impact associated with these towers. Achievable mitigation measures thus refer to e.g. the mitigation with regards to night lighting on the substations and so forth.

4.4 Noise Impacts

NO.	THEME: NOISE IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.4.1	The wind farm is expected to create a lot of noise	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu Local Municipalities	A noise impact assessment has been undertaken to determine any possible noise related impacts on the area and its surrounds.

4.5 Social Impacts

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.5.1	Unemployment creates numerous problems for the Ubuntu Local Municipality as these unemployed persons become a burden for the municipality especially with regards to the provision of housing facilities to them.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The proposed project is expected to have a positive impact on the local communities as jobs would be created, in the same manner as for the existing water sourcing project on the farm Nobelsfontein. The project is expected to cost between R2.1 and R8 billion and would aim to create a Centre of Excellence. Jobs would be created during the construction, as well as operation and maintenance phases. Lower skilled and highly skilled personnel would be required. It is thus not expected to result in job losses, but create additional jobs instead. SARGE would aim to create a

THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS				
NO.	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
				positive investment in the area.
4.5.2	He indicated that SARGE would investigate the possibility of assisting the community who once lived in the Biesiespoort area. Those people that stayed at Biesiespoort are now living at Hutchinson. This community could be assisted with possible incentives from the project. This would, however, have to be further investigated.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted
4.5.3	One of the aims of the project would be to revitalise the area in terms of job creation and infrastructure development, in other words it would focus on broad based empowerment.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted
4.5.4	SARGE aims to create bursaries for promising individuals from the community to further themselves in the field of energy generation.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted
4.5.5	During the construction phase, the project could be to the benefit of the local guest houses as some members of the construction team could be accommodated at these guest houses. This aspect could create or maintain jobs for locals in the area.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.5.6	Maintenance of the roads would have to be undertaken and various individuals would be employed for maintenance of the solar energy facility (e.g. cleaning of panels / security personnel) and the wind energy facility (cleaning of blades / security personnel). This would all be beneficial to the area with regards to employment creation.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted
4.5.7	What about BEE?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Funds are available for a BEE component. This aspect, however, still needs to be finalised to ensure that all involved benefit from the project.
4.5.8	There are various submissions for similar projects within the municipal area. The Ubuntu Local Municipality would thus have to make strategic decisions with regards to all of these applications. They would also focus on the way in which the local communities could benefit by the proposed projects.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Comment Noted
4.5.9	It is believed that "The creation of one or more Solar Parks in the country can also generate significant economic development and new employment."	Comments e-mailed: received on 25 October 2010	Ms. Sindisile Madyo: LED Manager: Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	<p>According to the Clinton Climate Initiative, A Solar Park is a concentrated zone of solar development that includes thousands of megawatts ("MW") of generation capacity. One or more parcels of land in close proximity are designated and pre-permitted as a Solar Park. Individual solar plants developed by multiple power producers are constructed on the land in a clustered fashion and on a predictable timeline, sharing common transmission and infrastructure". This perspective on solar parks opens opportunities for clustering similar projects closer to this development as means to realise the Renewable Energy Hub.</p>			
4.5.10	<p>As a teacher in Victoria West he has an interest in the project and how it will influence the community.</p>	<p>Comments Faxed: received on 06 December 2010</p>	<p>Mr. Russel van Rooy: Teacher at the John Rossouw Primary School, Victoria West</p>	<p>Comment Noted</p>
4.5.11	<p>What will the socio economic impact of the project be (job creation), in specific the sustainability of the project</p>	<p>Comments Faxed: received on 06 December 2010</p>	<p>Mr. Russel van Rooy: Teacher at the John Rossouw Primary School, Victoria West</p>	<p>A social impact assessment has been undertaken to determine any possible social related impacts on the area and its surrounds.</p>
4.5.12	<p>How many job opportunities would be</p>	<p>Comments on the</p>	<p>Mrs Barbara Brown: Central</p>	<p>Indications are that approximately</p>

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	created as part of this project?	Focus Group Meeting held on 22 March 2011	Karoo District Municipality	20 job opportunities would be created during the construction phase. Some of these jobs could be undertaken by locals. During the operational phase a maximum of 30 direct and indirect jobs would be created although not all of these opportunities would require individuals to be on site on a permanent basis.
4.5.13	As representatives of the Karoo Central District Municipality, they are grateful for the job opportunities created, but they also had an obligation towards the environment.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 22 March 2011	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	Comment Noted. The difference between normal Photovoltaic (PV) panels and Concentrated Solar Panel (CSP) facilities was explained. The latter make use of water and solar panels to generate electricity. The Karoo Renewable Energy Facility, however, would consist of normal PV panels.
4.5.14	When is the planned construction date?	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. Manie Scholtz: Ubuntu Local Municipality	No construction date has been set as the EIA process first needs to be completed. Once a final EIA report has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), they can make a

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
				decision in this regard. No construction activities can thus start if the project applicant has not received a positive authorisation for the proposed project. A generation license from NERSA would also have to be obtained before construction can commence.
4.5.15	For information purposes for the Social Impact Assessment process it was asked whether the representatives of the Ubuntu Local Municipality had any comments with regards to the applicant's social responsibility towards the local communities and the involvement of local entrepreneurs within the tender and procurement processes.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	The applicant should submit a plan on how local labour would be involved in the process. The number of possible employment opportunities created as part of the proposed project should furthermore be indicated.
4.5.16	The Ubuntu Local Municipality do have a list of local entrepreneurs that could form part of the tender process. This information could be obtained from Mr. M. Kivedo.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. Manie Scholtz: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Comment Noted
4.5.17	How would the proposed project	Comments from individual meeting	Mr. J. Hamman – adjacent property owner – farm Three	Sheep farming can easily continue between the wind turbines.

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	influence the farming activities on the site?	held on 24 March 2011	Sisters	Animals would be able to also move between the solar energy facility panels.

4.6 Ecology Related Impacts

NO.	THEME: ECOLOGY RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.6.1	He is concerned about the possible impact on the Karoo vegetation. Sheep will not be able to graze on site which would result in limited farming activities with subsequent job losses for farmers and farm workers. Game would leave the area and hunting activities would not be able to continue which would have negative economic impacts on the social environment.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Game could leave the area, although the area is not known for various hunting operations and activities. Farming practices would be able to continue to some extent on the affected properties. Sheep could still graze between the solar panels and underneath the wind turbines.
4.6.2	Biophysical impact of the proposed project on the environment. Habitat disturbance of flora and fauna.	Reply Form Faxed: Received 12 October 2010	Mr. Fanie Avenant – interested and affected party	The possible impact of the proposed development on the biophysical environment will be determined by means of undertaking various specialist studies (i.e. Ecological-, Geotechnical-, Avian/Bird- and Agricultural Impact Assessments).
4.6.3	The site is covered mainly by Eastern	Written comments	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham:	Due to the vegetation types

NO.	THEME: ECOLOGY RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	Upper Karoo vegetation with Upper Karoo Hardeveld being found in the south eastern and south western parts of the site and a large area of Southern Karoo Riviere vegetation also being found in the south western part of the site. Although all of these vegetation types are considered to be Least Threatened on a National basis, only very small percentages of all of them are formally conserved and being in an arid region they are all slow to recover from any disturbance.	faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	CapeNature	associated with the study area being classified as Least Threatened, there is no basis to treat them as having high conservation value without there being other factors that would contribute to their sensitivity, e.g. important habitats for species of concern.
4.6.4	The footprint of every turbine and all associated infrastructure and the surrounding area must undergo ground-truthing. Avifaunal and faunal surveys should be conducted on site across several seasons (pre-authorisation and not just pre-construction) to adequately determine what birds and animals are using the site and the important and sensitive habitats which they may be using. Determining habitats on site is especially important for animals such as	Written comments faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham: CapeNature	Ground-truthing of infrastructure positions can only occur once the positioning of infrastructure is known and will take place during the EIA phase of the proposed development. As far as sensitive species are concerned, two bat species could potentially occur on the study site, both classified globally as Least Concern. There may be value in getting a bat specialist study done for all WEFs, but, for this one at least, there are

NO.	THEME: ECOLOGY RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	<p>bats which have specific roosting requirements and the presence of suitable habitats will help determine the number and type of species present in the area. The size of the application area and/or the lack of time should not be used as an excuse for not conducting detailed ground-truthing and assessment, but perhaps the applicant should consider “breaking up” the application into smaller land parcels and applying for the development in a phased manner.</p>			<p>no species of high conservation concern likely to be affected.</p> <p>Three bat species of potential concern are listed in the scoping report and surveys for these species will be undertaken in habitats where they could potentially occur. The necessity of undertaking detailed surveys over various seasons for other (non-threatened) species is not believed to be necessary.</p>
4.6.5	<p>Several rare succulent species may occur in this area and loss of these should be avoided – search and rescue of plant species should always be a last resort and turbines and infrastructure should rather be relocated out of sensitive areas.</p>	<p>Written comments faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010</p>	<p>Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham: CapeNature</p>	<p>A layout will be provided during the EIA phase for assessment and identification of any “no-go” or sensitive areas by the specialist studies. The final facility layout will ensure avoidance of any identified no-go or sensitive areas.</p> <p>The approach undertaken by the Ecology specialist in EIA studies relate to threatened and near threatened plant species and sometimes critically rare species (if</p>

NO.	THEME: ECOLOGY RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
				<p>they are known to occur nearby). According to SANBI records, there are no such species recorded from the study site. It is not expected that the National Department will turn down an application on the basis of the presence of species of lesser conservation concern.</p> <p>It is therefore a waste of resources to search for such species or to be concerned about their potential presence. If there are specific species of concern known to Cape Nature, then Cape Nature must please identify them and the merits of evaluating their potential presence and the potential impact of the project on them can be evaluated.</p>
4.6.6	Cumulative and indirect impacts must also be considered. For example power lines have impacts on fauna and avifauna other than the risk of collision and electrocution. Pylons and lines provide nesting and perching sites for	Written comments faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham: CapeNature	All cumulative and indirect impacts will be addressed during the EIA phase of the proposed development, and mitigation measures will be included as part of the EMP. The argument that

NO.	THEME: ECOLOGY RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	raptors therefore increasing the risk of predation to small animals including the endangered riverine rabbit (<i>Bunolagus monticularis</i>) which may be found on the site.			raptors perching on powerlines increase predation on the Riverine Rabbit, is questionable considering that raptors naturally occur in the area anyway.
4.6.7	Assessment of other potential impacts on the endangered riverine rabbit and other fauna (e.g. noise from blasting, construction vehicle, turbines etc.) also needs to be considered.	Written comments faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham: CapeNature	The possible impact of the proposed development on those faunal species of conservation concern that are likely to occur on site have been addressed by means of undertaking a detailed ecological impact assessment. Possible impacts of noise on fauna have been considered in the noise impact assessment.
4.6.8	Additional disturbance and loss of habitat may be caused by the creation of borrow pits and cement batching areas and suitable locations for these must also be identified.	Written comments faxed through in terms of the DSR: Received on 13 December 2010	Ms. Alana Duffell-Canham: CapeNature	No onsite borrow pits and cement batching plants will be required on site.

4.7 Heritage Related Impacts

NO.	THEME: HERITAGE RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.7.1	Heritage impact of the proposed project on the environment. Disturbance of heritage, archaeological and paleontological sites.	Reply Form Faxed: Received 12 October 2010	Mr. Fanie Avenant – interested and affected party	A Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken which will determine any possible heritage related impacts on the area and its surrounds.
4.7.2	The Committee requires an AIA, a PIA scoping report and a 3D visual spatialisation presentation	Comment received 2 December 2010	Jenna Lavin, Heritage Western Cape	A desktop Archaeological Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the scoping phase and a detailed assessment will be undertaken for the EIA phase. A Palaeontological Desktop Assessment will also be undertaken as part of the EIA phase. A visual Impact Assessment has also been undertaken as part of the specialist studies.
4.7.3	A Heritage Impact Assessment must be undertaken where Heritage sites are to be affected. A Palaeontological desktop assessment must be undertaken to assess whether the development will impact on Palaeontological resources or at least an exemption letter from a Palaeontologist if the assessment is unnecessary	Comment received via fax	Mariagrazia Galimberti, SAHRA	A desktop Archaeological Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the scoping phase and a detailed assessment has been undertaken for the EIA phase. A Palaeontological Desktop Assessment has been undertaken as part of the EIA phase.

NO.	THEME: HERITAGE RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.7.4	The EIA must also include a Heritage Impact Assessment. The South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA), for present still handles all archaeological matters in the Northern Cape Province and hence all EIA matters relating to heritage resources have to be referred to its Cape Town office as well as Ngwao Boswa Kapa Bokone.	1 December 2010	MJ Sinthumule, Heritage Northern Cape: Ngwao Boswa Kapa Bokone	A desktop Archaeological Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the scoping phase and a detailed assessment will be undertaken for the EIA phase.
4.7.5	How would the heritage related impacts be mitigated?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Ms. M. January: ERM	All construction related activities should avoid sensitive heritage areas e.g. rock paintings. The areas where human remains were found would require SAHRA to appoint the relevant specialist to remove the remains. Should any other artefacts or heritage resources be found during the construction phase, the construction activities would be stopped, and a qualified heritage specialists would visit the site to determine the way forward.

4.8 Natural Resources

THEME: NATURAL RESOURCES IMPACTS				
NO.	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.8.1	Interested as to what impact the proposed project will have on the natural resources within the area	Reply Form Faxed: Received 23 March 2011	Mr. Johannes Roux: Dept Agriculture Northern Cape (Sustainable resource manager)	The possible impact of the proposed development on the natural resources have been investigated by means of various detailed specialist studies that have been undertaken (including an Ecological Impact Assessment). Refer to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for all specialist studies undertaken as well as an assessment of the possible impacts.
4.8.2	What natural resources will be required for the proposed project and what infrastructure will be required?	Reply Form Faxed: Received 23 March 2011	Mr. Johannes Roux: Dept Agriculture Northern Cape (Sustainable resource manager)	No natural resources will be required for the proposed facility except for the water needed to clean the PV panels occasionally.
4.8.3	Wind energy facilities have influenced the local weather and rainfall patterns in Sweden. Research should be done to determine how this facility would influence their local weather and rainfall patterns.	Comments from individual meeting held on 24 March 2011	Mr. J. Hamman – adjacent property owner – farm Three Sisters	Comment was noted.

4.9 Traffic Impacts

NO.	THEME: TRAFFIC IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.9.1	She stated that the gravel roads in the area are of a good standard and she does not foresee major challenges in this regard.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 22 March 2011	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	Comment Noted.
4.9.2	Where would the access roads be?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. J.H. van der Merwe: Zwartkopjes	<p>The local "Biesiespoort" road to the northern side of the site would be used. Internal access roads would be constructed to link different sections of the facility with each other. It should be noted that the local railway line could be used for transportation of some of the smaller parts required for the PV panels. The turbines would probably be transported via road from Coega via Graaff Reinet, Aberdeen and Beaufort West.</p> <p>As part of the BEE component the community previously located at the Biesiespoort station would be considered. Furthermore, bursaries and scholarships would be provided to locals in the</p>

THEME: TRAFFIC IMPACTS				
NO.	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
				electricity related field. The aim is to create a training centre for local technicians.
4.9.3	Where would the access roads to the proposed site be?	Comments from individual meeting held on 24 March 2011	Mr. J. Hamman – adjacent property owner – farm Three Sisters	The main access road would be the Biesiespoort Road which links the property with the N1 and N12. Internal access roads between the infrastructure on site would have to be constructed.
4.9.4	No access roads would be allowed on his property.	Comments from individual meeting held on 24 March 2011	Mr. J. Hamman – adjacent property owner – farm Three Sisters	Comment noted.

4.10 Technical Impacts

THEME: TECHNICAL IMPACTS				
NO.	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.10.1	Did the applicant measure sufficient wind to sustain a facility such as the ones proposed?	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 22 March 2011	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	The client (applicant) has two monitoring masts of different sizes on site. Sufficient wind data has been captured over a period of time. It is expected that the financial institutions will not provide funding if there is no evidence of sufficient wind data.
4.10.2	indicated that he is very familiar with wind and solar technology. No further explanations were required	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. Manie Scholtz: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The applicants normally state a specific megawatt of power that could be produced but that the actual figures that would be implemented would depend on the generation licenses received. This issue could possibly also result in a change in the final layout plans.
4.10.3	Some privately owned farms in the Ubuntu area are already making use of wind and solar facilities. The streetlamps in Victoria West have also been changed to more energy efficient alternatives with subsequent financial benefits for the Ubuntu Local Municipality	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. Manie Scholtz: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: TECHNICAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.10.4	What was the size of the surface area of the PV plant?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011.	Mr. R. Villacian: Gestaup Solar	Approximately 97 ha including the access roads.
4.10.5	Would it be possible to increase the size of land allocated for the PV panels should more land be required due to the megawatt power to be generated?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011.	Mr. R. Villacian: Gestaup Solar	The broader site was assessed as part of the EIA. The size of land can be increased as long as the final layout complies with the findings and recommendations of the specialist studies.
4.10.6	How would oil leakages during operation be managed?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	Any possible oil spillages would be managed as part of the draft EMP. A laydown area is planned where materials would be stored on site.
4.2.3	What size of land would be required for the proposed wind and solar energy facilities?	Comments from individual meeting held on 24 March 2011	Mr. J. Hamman – adjacent property owner – farm Three Sisters	Approximately 97 ha would be required for the PV solar energy facility and each turbine would require 15 m x 15 m for its footprint.

4.11 Waste Impacts

NO.	THEME: WASTE IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.11.1	Would waste be generated on site? Who would be responsible for removal of the waste?	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 22 March 2011	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	Limited waste would be generated on site – only domestic waste and construction related waste. The contractors would be responsible for removal of the waste. Communication between the local municipalities and the developer is important, especially for the role the municipalities should play in monitoring of the EMP.

4.12 Water Impacts

NO.	THEME: WATER IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.12.1	It should be noted that if the local water sources and the catchment under government control be affected, the applicant should apply for a Water Use Licence (WULA).	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	Where feasible, disturbance to drainage lines should be avoided. In areas where the proposed infrastructure could possibly impact on the drainage lines, it has been noted as part of the draft EIA report to move the infrastructure. This had an impact on the layout plans.

THEME: WATER IMPACTS				
NO.	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.12.2	What negative impacts are anticipated on the existing water uses on the property?	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	Approximately 1.5l of water will be required for each PV panel to be cleaned. This equates to a substantial amount of water needed for the solar array. This therefore necessitates the need for a Water Use License Application (WULA) to be submitted to the Department of Water Affairs due to the volumes being in excess of those specified for a General Authorisation in terms of water use.
4.12.3	The turbine foundations would be concrete foundations which would require water for mixing the cement. Where will this water be sourced? Should water on site be required a Schedule 1 Authorisation would have to be issued.	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	Due to an off-site batching plant, no authorisation would be required. At this stage it is expected that the existing batching plant on the farm Schietkuil would be utilised. The water related issue would thus fall under that specific batching plant's licence.
4.12.4	It should be noted that the layout plans took great care to avoid any water courses.	Comments on the Public Meeting held on 23 March 2011	Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	Comment Noted
4.12.5	What would the impact on the water courses be due to the disturbance of	Comments on the Public Meeting held	Ms. N. Feni: DWA	Mitigation measures as part of the ecological impact assessment have

NO.	THEME: WATER IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	the vegetation and the removal of the vegetation?	on 23 March 2011		<p>been proposed to mitigate the impacts in this regard.</p> <p>Possible erosion would be dealt with as part of the stormwater management plan. The areas disturbed during the construction phase would thus have to be rehabilitated as soon as possible to avoid any invader species entering the water courses. The impact is thus a holistic one which has to be holistically mitigated.</p> <p>It should again be noted that an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) would be on site for the duration of the construction period.</p>

5. CONCLUSIONS

From the above issues and comments received the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The main concerns raised revolve around:
 - The impact on job creation of the proposed project within the area;
 - The possible visual impacts as a result of the proposed project;
 - The possible water impacts as a result of the proposed project;
 - The possible traffic impacts as a result of the proposed project;
 - The possible heritage impacts as a result of the proposed project; and
 - The possible ecological impacts as a result of the proposed project.
- Other issues raised include the impact on properties surrounding the site and sustainability of the project.

6. APPENDIX A: LIST OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE
PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY**

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING: EIA PHASE
KAROO CENTRAL DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY AND BEAUFORT WEST
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY
TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2011
09H00**

**OFFICES OF CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, BEAUFORT
WEST**

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees

Ms. I. Snyman	Batho Earth: Social Consultant
Mr. G. Cronje	Savannah Environmental: Environmental Consultant
Ms. T. Kruger	Savannah Environmental: Environmental Consultant
Ms. B. Brown	DEA: Central Karoo District Municipality: Environmental Manager
Mr. P. Nakani	Central Karoo District Municipality: Environmental Health Practitioner
Ms. T. Twani	Central Karoo District Municipality: IDP Manager

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	
Name	Discussion
Ms I. Snyman: Batho Earth	<p>She welcomed the attendants and opened the meeting at 09h20.</p> <p>The aim of the meeting was to provide the representatives of the Central Karoo District Municipality and Beaufort West Local Municipality with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the EIA process and the scope of work for the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility; • Preliminary feedback on the findings of the EIA phase to I&APs; • An opportunity to comment or seek clarity regarding the proposed project; and • An opportunity to record comments, issues and concerns raised to inform the EIA process <p>The following project team members were introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ingrid Snyman (Batho Earth); • Mr. Gerhard Cronje (Savannah Environmental); and • Ms. Tammy Kruger (Savannah Environmental)

PROJECT BACKGROUND	
Name	Discussion
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	Savannah Environmental provided a short presentation which provided background to the proposed project and environmental studies undertaken. It was again highlighted that the aim of the project was to establish a commercial renewable energy facility consisting of both a wind energy facility component (450 MW) and a photovoltaic solar facility component (50 MW), as well as the associated infrastructure on a site located ~ 34 km south of the town of Victoria West in the Northern Cape Province. The project is proposed on portions of the following farms: Nobelsfontein 227, Annex Nobelsfontein 234, Ezelsfontein 235, Rietkloofplaaten 239, Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	Information regarding the following issues was provided and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site location; • The preliminary layout plan; • The legal context in which the EIA is required; • The EIA process undertaken; • Local site specific impacts (permanent and temporary disturbances); • Visual impacts; • Ecological impacts; • Impacts on avifauna; • Heritage impacts; • Geology and soils impacts; • Noise impacts; and • Social impacts.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	The following key conclusions were listed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No environmental fatal flaws were identified to prevent the proposed project from proceeding; • Footprints of disturbance for facility are localised, resulting in small-scale disturbances; • These impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels from an environmental perspective (excluding visual impacts); • Impacts of moderate to high significance can be mitigated; • All mitigation measures must be implemented as part of the draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP); and • Infrastructure will be positioned to avoid areas of high sensitivity.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft EIA Report will be made available for review at the end

Environmental	<p>of March 2011 at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria West Public Library • Karoo Vleisboere Cooperation • www.savannahsa.com <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered I&AP's to be notified of the DEIR review period and availability would be advertised in the local media • I&APs are invited to submit comments or questions throughout the EIA process • The Final EIA Report would be submitted to DEA for review and acceptance.
DISCUSSION SESSION	
Name	Discussion
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	When could they have copies of the specialist reports?
Mr. Gerhard Cronje: Savannah Environmental	The detailed specialist studies would form part of the draft EIA Report that would be made available for public comment. The aim is to release this document for review at the end of March 2011.
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	How many job opportunities would be created as part of this project?
Ms. Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	Indications are that approximately 20 job opportunities would be created during the construction phase. Some of these jobs could be undertaken by locals. During the operational phase a maximum of 30 direct and indirect jobs would be created although not all of these opportunities would require individuals to be on site on a permanent basis.
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	As representatives of the Karoo Central District Municipality, they are grateful for the job opportunities created, but they also had an obligation towards the environment.
Ms. Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	Comment noted.
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	She explained the difference between normal Photovoltaic (PV) panels and Concentrated Solar Panel (CSP) facilities. The latter make use of water and solar panels to generate electricity. The Karoo Renewable Energy Facility, however, would consist of normal PV panels. No water would thus be used. She explained that a PV facility produces Alternating Current (AC) which needs an inverter to convert the current to the current normally used, namely Direct Current (DC). This enables the power to be evacuated into the existing electricity grid.
	Noted
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	<p>She noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some noise is experienced with the wind turbines and on-site generators.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The solar panels occupy more space due to their footprint size compared to the footprint of wind turbines. • With regards to the wind turbines it should be noted that farming could continue between the tower footprints. • The solar panels do not increase the risk for veld fires as the purpose of these are to absorb heat and not to generate heat. Activities of workers on-site, however could possibly increase the risk of veld fires. • The only reflection from the panels might be caused by the reflection of the casing which holds the panels in place. The panels do not reflect light. • Transportation of the wind turbines would require abnormal vehicles and specific licenses. Some of the local roads would probably need to be upgraded to accommodate these vehicles.
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	The above was noted. She added that the gravel roads in the area are of a good standard and she does not foresee major challenges in this regard.
	Noted
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	Did the applicant measure sufficient wind to sustain a facility such as the ones proposed?
Mr. Gerhard Cronje: Savannah Environmental	The client (applicant) has two monitoring masts of different sizes on site. Sufficient wind data has been captured over a period of time.
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	She added that it is expected that the financial institutions will not provide funding if there is no evidence of sufficient wind data.
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	Is Savannah Environmental also involved with a project situated close to the Oudshoorn Road where a mast can be seen from the road?
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	Yes, they are. At the moment there are many developers with applications as part of the Eskom REFIT programme. It is anticipated that some developers would not qualify as part of this REFIT programme and that they would have to move to REFIT 2, or that they would sell the power to huge industries e.g. mines. All would depend on the economic viability and site locations.
Mr. Gerhard Cronje: Savannah Environmental	He explained the main components of the wind turbines, namely the tower, the nacelle and rotor. The tower heights could be up to 125m. In addition, there would be an on-site substation from where the power would be channelled to the existing electricity grid.
	Noted
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	Would waste be generated on site? Who would be responsible for removal of the waste?
Mr. Gerhard	Limited waste would be generated on site – only domestic waste and

Cronje: Savannah Environmental	construction related waste. The contractors would be responsible for removal of the waste.
	Noted
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	Communication between the local municipalities and the developer is important, especially for the role the municipalities should play in monitoring of the EMP.
CLOSURE	
Name	Discussion
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	She thanked the attendants for their time and for meeting with them. Minutes of the meeting would be distributed. She stressed that it is important that the municipal representatives review the draft EIR. The draft EIR would probably be made available for public review at the end of March 2011. I&APs will be notified of the availability of the document.
Ms. Barbara Brown: CKDM	She apologised for the poor turnout at the meeting.
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	The meeting was closed at 10:00.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE
PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY**

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING: EIA PHASE
UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2011
09H30**

OFFICES OF UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, VICTORIA WEST

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees

Ms. I. Snyman	Batho Earth: Social Consultant
Mr. G. Cronje	Savannah Environmental: Environmental Consultant
Ms. T. Kruger	Savannah Environmental: Environmental Consultant
Mrs. Jill Piquer	Ubuntu Local Municipality: Environmental Health Practitioner
Mr. Manie Scholtz	Ubuntu Local Municipality: Electrician

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	
Name	Discussion
Ms I. Snyman: Batho Earth	<p>She welcomed the attendants and opened the meeting at 09h30.</p> <p>The aim of the meeting was to provide the representatives of the Central Karoo District Municipality and Beaufort West Local Municipality with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the EIA process and the scope of work for the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility; • Preliminary feedback on the findings of the EIA phase to I&APs; • An opportunity to comment or seek clarity regarding the proposed project; and • An opportunity to record comments, issues and concerns raised to inform the EIA process <p>The following project team members were introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ingrid Snyman (Batho Earth); • Mr. Gerhard Cronje (Savannah Environmental); and • Ms. Tammy Kruger (Savannah Environmental)
PROJECT BACKGROUND	
Name	Discussion
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah	Savannah Environmental provided a short presentation which provided background to the proposed project and environmental studies undertaken. It was again highlighted that the aim of the

Environmental	<p>project was to establish a commercial renewable energy facility consisting of both a wind energy facility component (450 MW) and a photovoltaic solar facility component (50 MW), as well as the associated infrastructure on a site located ~ 34 km south of the town of Victoria West in the Northern Cape Province. The project is proposed on portions of the following farms: Nobelsfontein 227, Annex Nobelsfontein 234, Ezelsfontein 235, Rietkloofplaaten 239, Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1.</p>
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	<p>Information regarding the following issues was provided and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site location; • The preliminary layout plan; • The legal context in which the EIA is required; • The EIA process undertaken; • Local site specific impacts (permanent and temporary disturbances); • Visual impacts; • Ecological impacts; • Impacts on avifauna; • Heritage impacts; • Geology and soils impacts; • Noise impacts; and • Social impacts.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	<p>The following key conclusions were listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No environmental fatal flaws were identified to prevent the proposed project from proceeding; • Footprints of disturbance for facility are localised, resulting in small-scale disturbances; • These impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels from an environmental perspective (excluding visual impacts); • Impacts of moderate to high significance can be mitigated; • All mitigation measures must be implemented as part of the draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP); and • Infrastructure will be positioned to avoid areas of high sensitivity.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft EIA Report will be made available for review at the end of March 2011 at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria West Public Library • Karoo Vleisboere Cooperation • www.savannahsa.com

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered I&AP's to be notified of the DEIR review period and availability would be advertised in the local media I&APs are invited to submit comments or questions throughout the EIA process The Final EIA Report would be submitted to DEA for review and acceptance.
DISCUSSION SESSION	
Name	Discussion
Mrs. Jill Piquer: Ubuntu Local Municipality	When did the EIA phase of the project start?
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	The EIA phase of the project started in February 2011. Notification letters were distributed to I&APs in this regard.
Mr. Manie Scholtz: Ubuntu Local Municipality	When is the planned construction date?
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	No construction date has been set as the EIA process first needs to be completed. Once a final EIA report has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), they can make a decision in this regard. No construction activities can thus start if the project applicant has not received a positive authorisation for the proposed project.
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	For information purposes for the Social Impact Assessment process it was asked whether the representatives of the Ubuntu Local Municipality had any comments with regards to the applicant's social responsibility towards the local communities and the involvement of local entrepreneurs within the tender and procurement processes.
Mr. Manie Scholtz and Mrs. Jill Piquer: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The applicant should submit a plan on how local labour would be involved in the process. The number of possible employment opportunities created as part of the proposed project should furthermore be indicated.
	Noted
Mr. Manie Scholtz and Mrs. Jill Piquer: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The Ubuntu Local Municipality do have a list of local entrepreneurs that could form part of the tender process. This information could be obtained from Mr. M. Kivedo.
	Noted
Mr. Manie Scholtz and Mrs. Jill Piquer: Ubuntu Local Municipality	They are not of the opinion that the proposed project would result in negative impacts with regards to the functions of their various departments at the Ubuntu Local Municipality. No negative cumulative impacts are also foreseen should other similar projects

Municipality	be implemented.
	Noted
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	She asked whether the attendants required any information on the technology and how it works?
Mr. Manie Scholtz: Ubuntu Local Municipality	He indicated that he is very familiar with wind and solar technology. No further explanations were required.
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	She explained that the applicants normally state a specific megawatt of power that could be produced but that the actual figures that would be implemented would depend on the generation licenses received. This issue could possibly also result in a change in the final layout plans.
Mr. Manie Scholtz: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Some privately owned farms in the Ubuntu area are already making use of wind and solar facilities. The streetlamps in Victoria West have also been changed to more energy efficient alternatives with subsequent financial benefits for the Ubuntu Local Municipality
CLOSURE	
Name	Discussion
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	She thanked the attendants for their time and for meeting with them. Minutes of the meeting would be distributed. She stressed that it is important that the municipal representatives review the draft EIR. The draft EIR would probably be made available for public review at the end of March 2011. I&APs will be notified of the availability of the document.
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	The meeting was closed at 10:15.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE
PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY**

**PUBLIC MEETING: EIA PHASE
WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2011
16H00**

**COMMITTEE MEETING ROOM, VICTORIA WEST CITY HALL, VICTORIA
WEST**

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees

Ms. I. Snyman	Batho Earth: Social Consultant
Mr. G. Cronje	Savannah Environmental: Environmental Consultant
Ms. T. Kruger	Savannah Environmental: Environmental Consultant
Ms. N. Feni	Department of Water Affairs: Environmental Officer
Mr. T. Rantekane	Department of Water Affairs: Senior Water Control Officer
Mr. R. Villacian	Gestaup Solar: Corporate Development
Mr. F. Roux	SARGE
Mr. J.H. van der Merwe	Elandsfontein (Swartkopjes): Property owner
Ms. M. January	ERM: Consultant
Ms. M. van Heerden	Rooikrans Retreat: Property owner / Highlands: Representative
Mr. M. Kivedo	Ubuntu Local Municipality: Infrastructure
Mr. S. Mlahlwa	Dept. of Agriculture: A.D.T

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	
Name	Discussion
Ms I. Snyman: Batho Earth	<p>She welcomed the attendants and opened the meeting at 16h05.</p> <p>The aim of the meeting was to provide the attendants with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the EIA process and the scope of work for the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility; • Preliminary feedback on the findings of the EIA phase to I&APs; • An opportunity to comment or seek clarity regarding the proposed project; and • An opportunity to record comments, issues and concerns raised to inform the EIA process <p>The following project team members were introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ingrid Snyman (Batho Earth); • Mr. Gerhard Cronje (Savannah Environmental); and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Tammy Kruger (Savannah Environmental)
PROJECT BACKGROUND	
Name	Discussion
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	Savannah Environmental provided a short presentation which provided background to the proposed project and environmental studies undertaken. It was again highlighted that the aim of the project was to establish a commercial renewable energy facility consisting of both a wind energy facility component (450 MW) and a photovoltaic solar facility component (50 MW), as well as the associated infrastructure on a site located ~ 34 km south of the town of Victoria West in the Northern Cape Province. The project is proposed on portions of the following farms: Nobelsfontein 227, Annex Nobelsfontein 234, Ezelsfontein 235, Rietkloofplaaten 239, Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	Information regarding the following issues was provided and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The site location; The preliminary layout plan; The legal context in which the EIA is required; The EIA process undertaken; Local site specific impacts (permanent and temporary disturbances); Visual impacts; Ecological impacts; Impacts on avifauna; Heritage impacts; Geology and soils impacts; Noise impacts; and Social impacts.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	The following key conclusions were listed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No environmental fatal flaws were identified to prevent the proposed project from proceeding; Footprints of disturbance for facility are localised, resulting in small-scale disturbances; These impacts can be mitigated to acceptable levels from an environmental perspective (excluding visual impacts); Impacts of moderate to high significance can be mitigated; All mitigation measures must be implemented as part of the draft Environmental Management Plan (EMP); and Infrastructure will be positioned to avoid areas of high sensitivity.

Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft EIA Report will be made available for review at the end of March 2011 at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria West Public Library • Karoo Vleisboere Cooperation • www.savannahsa.com • Registered I&AP's to be notified of the DEIR review period and availability would be advertised in the local media • I&APs are invited to submit comments or questions throughout the EIA process • The Final EIA Report would be submitted to DEA for review and acceptance.
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DISCUSSION SESSION

Name	Discussion
Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	It should be noted that if the local water sources and the catchment under government control be affected, the applicant should apply for a Water Use Licence (WULA).
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	A WULA is a time consuming process. Savannah Environmental usually recommends that the drainage lines be avoided due to the length of time for obtaining such a WULA. In areas where the proposed infrastructure could possibly impact on the drainage lines, it has been noted as part of the draft EIA report to move the infrastructure. This had an impact on the layout plans.
Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	What negative impacts are anticipated on the existing water uses on the property?
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	During the operational phase, no water would be required for the facility as it would consist of normal PV panels. The water required for general use such as domestic (potable) usage and for possibly cleaning of the panels would be limited. The water volume requirements during the operational phase therefore fall under the general water use requirements.
Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	The turbine foundations would be concrete foundations which would require water for mixing the cement. Where will this water be sourced? Should water on site be required a Schedule 1 Authorisation would have to be issued.
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	If an off-site batching plant would be used no authorisation would be required. At this stage it is expected that the existing batching plant on the farm Schietkuil would be utilised. The water related issue would thus fall under that specific batching plant's licence.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	It should be noted that the layout plans took great care to avoid any water courses.
Ms. N. Feni: DWA	What would the impact on the water courses be due to the disturbance of the vegetation and the removal of the vegetation?
Mr. Gerhard Cronje: Savannah	The vegetation on site was classified into three different classes or types of vegetation. None of these are critically endangered. Mitigation measures as part of the ecological impact assessment

Environmental	have been proposed to mitigate the impacts in this regard.
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	Possible erosion would be dealt with as part of the stormwater management plan. The areas disturbed during the construction phase would thus have to be rehabilitated as soon as possible to avoid any invader species entering the water courses. The impact is thus a holistic one which has to be holistically mitigated.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	It should again be noted that an Environmental Control Officer (ECO) would be on site for the duration of the construction period.
Mr. R. Villacian: Gestaup Solar	What was the size of the surface area of the PV plant?
Mr. Gerhard Cronje: Savannah Environmental	It was 97 ha including the access roads.
Mr. R. Villacian: Gestaup Solar	Would it be possible to increase the size of land allocated for the PV panels should more land be required due to the megawatt power to be generated?
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	The broader site was assessed as part of the EIA. The size of land can be increased as long as the final layout complies with the findings and recommendations of the specialist studies.
Mr. J.H. van der Merwe: Zwartkopjes	Where would the access roads be?
Mr. Gerhard Cronje: Savannah Environmental	The local "Biesiespoort" road to the northern side of the site would be used. Internal access roads would be constructed to link different sections of the facility with each other.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	It should be noted that the local railway line could be used for transportation of some of the smaller parts required for the PV panels. The turbines would probably be transported via road from Coega via Graaff Reinet, Aberdeen and Beaufort West.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	As part of the BEE component the community previously located at the Biesiespoort station would be considered. Furthermore, bursaries and scholarships would be provided to locals in the electricity related field. The aim is to create a training centre for local technicians.
Mr. T. Rantekane: DWA	How would oil leakages during operation be managed?
Ms. Tammy Kruger: Savannah Environmental	Any possible oil spillages would be managed as part of the draft EMP. A laydown area is planned where materials would be stored on site.
Ms. M. January: ERM	Would the facility be visible from the N1 and how would this be mitigated?
Mr. Gerhard Cronje:	The visual impact assessment took many aspects into consideration such as e.g. the viewer incidences and so forth. The areas of high

Savannah Environmental	impact could thus refer to areas where only a small section of the tower would be visible. All the different layers that were used to create a visual index should thus be considered when studying the visual impact assessment. Due to the height of the towers it is difficult to mitigate the visual impact associated with these towers. Achievable mitigation measures thus refer to e.g. the mitigation with regards to night lighting on the substations and so forth.
Ms. M. January: ERM	How would the heritage related impacts be mitigated?
Mr. Gerhard Cronje: Savannah Environmental	All construction related activities should avoid sensitive heritage areas e.g. rock paintings. The areas where human remains were found would require SAHRA to appoint the relevant specialist to remove the remains. Should any other artefacts or heritage resources be found during the construction phase, the construction activities would be stopped, and a qualified heritage specialists would visit the site to determine the way forward.
Mr. J.H. van der Merwe: Zwartkopjes	What are the anticipated timeframes for the project implementation?
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	Should the project be awarded, construction could commence during September or October 2012. Construction would last approximately 2 years. For the wind energy facility a minimum of 12 months would be required and for the PV facility a minimum of 6 to 8 months.
Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu LM	The municipality is reviewing its Integrated Development Plan (IDP). All proposed projects should be included in this document.
	The comment was noted.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	Has any decision been made with regards to the rezoning of the land?
Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu LM	Mr. H. Jacobs would be the correct person to discuss this issue.
CLOSURE	
Name	Discussion
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	She thanked the attendants for their time and for meeting with them. Minutes of the meeting would be distributed. She stressed that it is important that the attendants review the draft EIR. The draft EIR would probably be made available for public review at the end of March 2011. I&APs will be notified of the availability of the document.
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	The meeting was closed at 17h00.



24 March 2011

Mr. Johan Hamman
 Farm: Three Sisters
 PO Box 1066
 Beaufort West
 6970

Dear Mr. Hamman

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED KAROO
 RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST,
 NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
 CONFIRMATION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON 24 MARCH 2011**

We once again thank you for the opportunity to have met with you and for your inputs received.

The background to the project and the EIA and Public Participation process was briefly discussed. Subsequent to this, the following comments were made:

- You are the property owner of the farm Three Sisters which borders the farm Ezelsfontein 235.
- You live on the property and you operate a guest house on the property.
- You had the following questions:

QUESTION	ANSWER / COMMENT
What size of land would be required for the proposed wind and solar energy facilities?	Mr. Gerhard Cronje indicated that approximately 97 ha would be required for the PV solar energy facility and each turbine would require 15 m x 15 m for its footprint.
Where would the access roads to the proposed site be?	The main access roads would be the Biesiespoort Road which links the property with the N1 and N12. Internal access roads between the infrastructure on site would have to be constructed.

QUESTION	ANSWER / COMMENT
No access roads would be allowed on your property.	Comment noted.
How would the proposed project influence the farming activities on the site?	Sheep farming can easily continue between the wind turbines. Animals would be able to also move between the solar energy facility panels.
Wind energy facilities have influenced the local weather and rainfall patterns in Sweden. Research should be done to determine how this facility would influence their local weather and rainfall patterns.	Comment was noted.
What benefits would the property owners receive as a result of the proposed project?	Income from the project would go to the developer, SARGE. Should the developer rent any of the affected properties from property owners, the latter would thus receive some form of rental income.

This letter serves as a confirmation of your comments on the proposed project. If you are not entirely satisfied with the contents thereof, and would like to make alterations to this letter, please do so as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days after receipt of this letter.

You are welcome to contact myself if you require any additional information regarding the proposed project.

Kind regards,

Ms Ingrid Snyman

Public Participation Consultant



SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

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physical Assegaibosch Nature Reserve Jonkershoek
website www.capenature.co.za
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FAX

reference
pages 3 (incl this page)
date 13/12/2010

TO
MR. JIMMY SITHOLE , DEA

FAX NO
086 684 0547

FROM
MS. A. DUFFELL-CANHAM , CAPENATURE

RE :
PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY
MESSAGE
DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1993

Manager (Scientific Services)

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trades as **CapeNature**
Board Members: Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis (Chairperson), Dr Colin Johnson (Vice Chairperson), Ms Francina du Bruyn, Ms Nomtha Dilima,
Mr Mico Eaton, Dr Edmund February, Mr Hoosain Kagee, Mr Eduard Kok, Mr Johan van der Merwe



SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

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telephone +27 21 866 8000 **fax** +27 21 866 1523
email aduffell-canham@capenature.co.za
reference SSD14/2/6/1/5/4/WindEF_Karoo_SARGE_NC&WC
date 13 December 2010

Att: Jimmy Sithole
Department of Environmental Affairs
By fax: 086 684 0547

CC: Ingrid Snyman
Batho Earth
By email: Ingrid@bathoearth.co.za

Dear Mr. Sithole

RE: Proposed establishment of the Karoo renewable energy facility on a site south of Victoria West, Northern and Western Cape Provinces – Draft Scoping Report.
DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1993

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed activity and wish to make the following comments:

1. The site is covered mainly by Eastern Upper Karoo vegetation with Upper Karoo Hardeveld being found in the south eastern and south western parts of the site and a large area of Southern Karoo Riviere vegetation also being found in the south western part of the site. Although all of these vegetation types are considered to be Least Threatened on a National basis, only very small percentages of all of them are formally conserved and being in an arid region they are all slow to recover from any disturbance.
2. The footprint of every turbine and all associated infrastructure and the surrounding area must undergo ground-truthing. Avifaunal and faunal surveys should be conducted on site across several seasons (pre-authorisation and not just pre-construction) to adequately determine what birds and animals are using the site and the important and sensitive habitats which they may be using. Determining habitats on site is especially important for animals such as bats which have specific roosting requirements and the presence of suitable habitats will help determine the number and type of species present in the area. The size of the application area and/or the lack of time should not be used as an excuse for not conducting detailed ground-truthing and assessment, but perhaps the applicant should consider "breaking up" the application into smaller land parcels and applying for the development in a phased manner.

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trades as CapeNature

Board Members: Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis (Chairperson), Dr Colin Johnson (Vice Chairperson), Ms Francina du Bruyn, Ms Nomtha Dilima, Mr Mico Eaton, Dr Edmund February, Mr Hoosain Kagee, Mr Eduard Kok, Mr Johan van der Merwe

3. Several rare succulent species may occur in this area and loss of these should be avoided – search and rescue of plant species should always be a last resort and turbines and infrastructure should rather be relocated out of sensitive areas.
4. Cumulative and indirect impacts must also be considered. For example power lines have impacts on fauna and avifauna other than the risk of collision and electrocution. Pylons and lines provide nesting and perching sites for raptors therefore increasing the risk of predation to small animals including the endangered riverine rabbit (*Bunolagus monticularis*) which may be found on the site.
5. Assessment of other potential impacts on the endangered riverine rabbit and other fauna (e.g. noise from blasting, construction vehicle, turbines etc.) also needs to be considered.
6. Additional disturbance and loss of habitat may be caused by the creation of borrow pits and cement batching areas and suitable locations for these must also be identified.
7. Whilst CapeNature understands the need for development of renewable energy facilities, the footprint of these facilities is considerable and careful placing of turbines and infrastructure is essential if direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity are to be deemed acceptable. CapeNature suggests that the exact layout of the proposed facility should be finalised during the environmental assessment process (even if this means having to wait for additional data) as this is key to understanding the potential impacts of the proposed facility – especially a potentially large facility such as this one. The EIA report must consider alternatives – these could be alternative turbine locations number of turbines, height of turbines, as well as different locations of the associated infrastructure (roads, substations, powerlines etc.).
8. A final layout needs to be provided, which at the very least provides an indication of agreed to “no-go” areas. This must be included in the Final EIR which is submitted for approval.
9. The applicant and consultants must demonstrate how all recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been taken into consideration. Where impacts are considered to be unavoidable, this should be clearly stated and motivated. The feasibility of all proposed mitigation measures must be confirmed prior to the application being submitted to DEA for authorisation. This must include confirmation of the possibility and the applicant's willingness to move/remove turbines and/or infrastructure out of all areas which are determined to have high ecological sensitivity before, during and even after construction.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely



Alana Duffell-Canham
For: Manager (Scientific Services)

From the desk of Gerhard Cronje
E-mail: gerhard@savannahSA.com



7 March 2011

Private Bag X 5014
Stellenbosch
7599

Attention: Alana Duffel-Canham

**PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENRGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF
VICTORIA WEST, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

Dear Alana

Please find herewith our response to your comments on the Proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility Draft Scoping Report received on the 13th December 2010.

1. Cape Nature:

The site is covered mainly by Eastern Upper Karoo vegetation with Upper Karoo Hardeveld being found in the south eastern and south western parts of the site and a large area of Southern Karoo Riviere vegetation also being found in the south western part of the site. Although all of these vegetation types are considered to be Least Threatened on a National basis, only very small percentages of all of them are formally conserved and being in an arid region they are all slow to recover from any disturbance.

Savannah Environmental Response:

Due to the vegetation types associated with the study area being classified as Least Threatened, there is no basis to treat them as having high conservation value without there being other factors that would contribute to their sensitivity, e.g. important habitats for species of concern.

2. Cape Nature:

The footprint of every turbine and all associated infrastructure and the surrounding area must undergo ground-truthing. Avifaunal and faunal surveys should be conducted on site across several seasons (pre-authorisation and not just pre-construction) to adequately determine what birds and animals are using the site and the important and sensitive habitats which they may be using.

UNIT 606, 1410 EGLIN OFFICE PARK, 4 EGLIN ROAD, SUNNINGHILL, GAUTENG
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DIRECTORS: KM JODAS • J THOMAS • M MATSABU
COMPANY REGISTRATION NO.: 2006/000127/07
VAT REGISTRATION NO.: 4780226736

Determining habitats on site is especially important for animals such as bats which have specific roosting requirements and the presence of suitable habitats will help determine the number and type of species present in the area. The size of the application area and/or the lack of time should not be used as an excuse for not conducting detailed ground-truthing and assessment, but perhaps the applicant should consider “breaking up” the application into smaller land parcels and applying for the development in a phased manner.

Savannah Environmental Response:

Ground-truthing of infrastructure positions can only occur once the positioning of infrastructure is known and will take place during the EIA phase of the proposed development. As far as sensitive species are concerned, two bat species could potentially occur on the study site, both classified globally as Least Concern. There may be value in getting a bat specialist study done for all WEFs, but, for this one at least, there are no species of high conservation concern likely to be affected.

Three bat species of potential concern are listed in the scoping report and surveys for these species will be undertaken in habitats where they could potentially occur. The necessity of undertaking detailed surveys over various seasons for other (non-threatened) species is not believed to be necessary.

3. Cape Nature:

Several rare succulent species may occur in this area and loss of these should be avoided – search and rescue of plant species should always be a last resort and turbines and infrastructure should rather be relocated out of sensitive areas.

Savannah Environmental Response:

A layout will be provided during the EIA phase for assessment and identification of any “no-go” or sensitive areas by the specialist studies. The final facility layout will ensure avoidance of any identified no-go or sensitive areas.

The approach undertaken by the Ecology specialist in EIA studies relate to threatened and near threatened plant species and sometimes critically rare species (if they are known to occur nearby). According to SANBI records, there are no such species recorded from the study site. It is not expected that the National Department will turn down an application on the basis of the presence of species of lesser conservation concern.

It is therefore a waste of resources to search for such species or to be concerned about their potential presence. If there are specific species of concern known to Cape Nature, then Cape Nature must please identify them and the merits of

evaluating their potential presence and the potential impact of the project on them can be evaluated.

4. Cape Nature:

Cumulative and indirect impacts must also be considered. For example power lines have impacts on fauna and avifauna other than the risk of collision and electrocution. Pylons and lines provide nesting and perching sites for raptors therefore increasing the risk of predation to small animals including the endangered riverine rabbit (*Bunolagus monticularis*) which may be found on the site.

Savannah Environmental Response:

All cumulative and indirect impacts will be addressed during the EIA phase of the proposed development, and mitigation measures will be included as part of the EMP. The argument that raptors perching on powerlines increase predation on the Riverine Rabbit, is questionable considering that raptors naturally occur in the area anyway.

5. Cape Nature:

Assessment of other potential impacts on the endangered riverine rabbit and other fauna (e.g. noise from blasting, construction vehicle, turbines etc.) also needs to be considered.

Savannah Environmental Response:

The possible impact of the proposed development on those faunal species of conservation concern that are likely to occur on site will be addressed by means of undertaking a detailed ecological impact assessment. Possible impacts of noise on fauna will be considered in the noise impact assessment.

6. Cape Nature:

Additional disturbance and loss of habitat may be caused by the creation of borrow pits and cement batching areas and suitable locations for these must also be identified.

Savannah Environmental Response:

Suitable areas for borrow pits (if required) and cement batching plants will be identified by the project team and made available to the specialists for assessment. The usual approach is to restrict these areas to places that will be part of the footprint of the development.

7. Cape Nature:

Whilst CapeNature understands the need for development of renewable energy facilities, the footprint of these facilities is considerable and careful placing of

turbines and infrastructure is essential if direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity are to be deemed acceptable. CapeNature suggests that the exact layout of the proposed facility should be finalised during the environmental assessment process (even if this means having to wait for additional data) as this is key to understanding the potential impacts of the proposed facility – especially a potentially large facility such as this one. The EIA report must consider alternatives – these could be alternative turbine locations number of turbines, height of turbines, as well as different locations of the associated infrastructure (roads, substations, powerlines etc.)

Savannah Environmental Response:

A layout will be provided during the EIA phase. Alternative turbine positions will be considered in areas where environmental sensitivities are identified. The final layout will be informed by the on-site wind conditions as well as the identified environmental sensitivities. Feasible alternative routes/ corridors for the power line will be assessed during the EIA phase.

The developer is still considering the turbine technology which will be used and this will be decided upon following further wind analysis and a detailed tender process. In order to ensure that all environmental impacts are adequately assessed, the EIA report considers the worst case scenario in terms of noise from the turbines, hub heights etc.

8. Cape Nature:

A final layout needs to be provided, which at the very least provides an indication of agreed to “no-go” areas. This must be included in the Final EIR which is submitted for approval.

Savannah Environmental Response:

A layout will be provided during the EIA phase. Any “no-go” areas will be identified in the EIA Report and these areas will be considered in the final design of the facility.

9. Cape Nature:

The applicant and consultants must demonstrate how all recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by the specialists have been taken into consideration. Where impacts are considered to be unavoidable, this should be clearly stated and motivated. The feasibility of all proposed mitigation measures must be confirmed prior to the application being submitted to DEA for authorisation. This must include confirmation of the possibility and the applicant’s willingness to move/remove turbines and/or infrastructure out of all areas which are determined to have high ecological sensitivity before, during and even after construction.

Savannah Environmental Response:

All recommendations and mitigation measures proposed by the specialists will form part of the EMP that will accompany both the Draft and Final EIA reports.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries regarding the above project.

Kind regards

Karen Jodas



22 Abattoir Road
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KIMBERLEY, 8300

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E-mail:
ahall@ncpg.gov.za

Enquiries :
Dipatlisiso :
Imibuzo : M J Sinthumule
Navrae :

Date:
Letlha1
Umhla:
Datum:

2010-10-20

Reference :
Tshupelo :
Isalanthiso : H2.8.22
Verwysing :

Mr. Ingrid Syman
Batho Earth
P. O. Box 35130
Menlo Park
0120

Dear Sir

KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY, EIA PROCESS. SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST, NORTHERN CAPE.

The Permits Committee of Ngwao Boswa ya Kapa Bokone is concerned about the heritage building in the area. It is advised that the Environmental Impact Assessment must also include Heritage Impact Assessment.

In conclusion please note:

- that the views or decisions of Ngwao Boswa Kapa Bokone expressed above do not exempt the proposed project from compliance with planning or any other legislation.
- the South African Heritage Resources Agency, SAHRA, for the present still handles all archaeological matters in the Northern Cape Province and hence all impact assessment matters relating to heritage resources have to be referred to its Cape Town office as well as to Ngwao Boswa Kapa Bokone.

Yours faithfully

**For Accounting Officer: Heritage Resources Management
p.p. Heritage Northern Cape**

CC: South African Heritage Agency (SAHRA)

Ngwao Boswa Kapa Bokone

is the provincial heritage resources authority of the Northern Cape
and is established under the terms of the National Heritage Resources Act



SOUTH AFRICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES AGENCY

111 HARRINGTON STREET, CAPE TOWN, 8000
PO BOX 4637, CAPE TOWN, 8000
TEL: (021) 462 4502 FAX: (021) 462 4509

DATE: 26 October 2010
ENQUIRIES: Mariagrazia Galimberti
Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit
E-mail: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za
Web site: www.sahra.org.za

DEA Ref: 12/12/20/1993
OUR REF: 9/2/100/0001

Ms Ingrid Snyman
Batho Earth
PO Box 35130
Menlo Park
0102

Dear Ms Snyman

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Thank you for your indication that development is to take place in this area.

In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that before such sites are disturbed by development it is incumbent on the developer (or mine) to ensure that a **Heritage Impact Assessment** is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required.

In your application received by SAHRA there was no indication of an assessment of the archaeological resources. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large development takes place.

The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites.

Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. (See attached list of accredited Palaeontologists).

If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority to indicate that there is no necessity for any further assessment.

Any other heritage resources that may be impacted such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Yours sincerely



Pp Mrs Nonofho Ndobochani
SAHRA: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit
For: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Copy: PHRA Northern Cape Office



Enquiries Jenna Lavin

Tel: 0214839685

Email: jlavin@pgwc.gov.za

Tracking:

Unique ID: 1212

Unique Case ID: 1256

Case Status: Assessment Stage

02 December 2010

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESKTOP STUDY AND DSR FOR THE PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE NORTH OF VICTORIA WEST, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

The above matter was discussed at the Heritage Western Cape Impact Assessment Review Committee (IARCOM) meeting held on 02/12/2010. In terms of section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999):

It was noted that:

1. The proposal is for a wind (150 turbines) and photovoltaic farm.

It was agreed that:

1. The Committee requires an AIA, a PIA scoping report and a 3D visual spatialisation presentation.

Yours faithfully

Jenna Lavin
Heritage Officer : Archaeology
For: Accounting Authority: Heritage Resources Management Services.
Pp Heritage Western Cape

OMGEWINGSIMPAKSTUDIE PROSES: VOORGESTELDE KAROO HERNUBARE ENERGIE FASILITEIT GELEë OP 'N TERREIN SUID VAN VICTORIA WES, NOORD KAAP PROVINSIE

DEA Verw No. 12/12/20/1993

OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSES REGISTRASIE/KOMMENTAAR VORM

Stuur asb u voltooide vorm aan: **Gerhard Cronje van Savannah Environmental**Faks: **086 684 0547**Tel: **011 234 6621**Eposl: **gerhard@savannahsa.com**Pos Adres: **Posbus 148, Sunninghill, 2157**

Verskaf asseblief u persoonlike kontak besonderhede:

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

Johannes Roux	
DEPT. LANDBOU (Volhoubare Hulpbrone Bestuur)	
Posbus 28	
De Aar 7000	
053 631 6074	Selfoon: 071 860 7550
053 631 0564	Vonkpos: hroux@ncpp.gov.za

Stel u belang om te registreer as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP)? (Merk met X) JA NEE

Nota: Dit word van u vereis om te registreer as 'n B&GP om alle toekomstige Inligting in verband met die Omgewingsimpakevalueringproses te ontvang.

Verduidelik u belangstelling in hierdie projek (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

Involged van beperkte aksie op natuurlike hulpbronne.

Lys u vrae, opinies of besorghede in verband met hierdie projek (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

1. Datum van publieke vergadering.
2. Omvang van infrastruktuur ontwikkeling.
3. Afhanklikheid van spesifieke natuurlike hulpbronne.

Verskaf bykommende kontak besonderhede van addisionele persoon/e wie u beskou as potensiële belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde partye:

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

	Selfoon:
	E-pos:

Dul u taal van keuse en korrespondensie aan (Merk met X)

Engels
Afrikaans

**OMGEWINGSIMPAKSTUDIE PROSES: VOORGESTELDE KAROO HERNUBARE
ENERGIE FASILITEIT GELEë OP N TERREIN SUID VAN VICTORIA WES, NOORD
KAAP PROVINSIE**

DEA Verw No. 12/12/20/1993

OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSES REGISTRASIE/KOMMENTAAR VORM

Stuur asb u voltooide registrasie/kommentaar vorm aan: **Ingrid Snyman van Batho Earth**

Faks: **012 361 1623**

Tel: **082 779 2750**

Eposl: **ingrid@bathoearth.co.za**

Pos Adres: **Posbus 35130, Menlo Park, 0102**

Verskaf asseblief u persoonlike kontak besonderhede:

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

DANIE MARAIS		
GROND EIENAAR (BOER)		
POSBUS 231		
VICTORIA-WES		
049 851 9402	Selfoon:	083 462 5279
049 851 9402	Vonkpos:	

Stel u belang om te registreer as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP)? (Merk met X) JA NEE

Nota: Dit word van u vereis om te registreer as 'n B&GP om alle toekomstige inligting in verband met die Omgewingsimpakevalueringproses te ontvang.

Verduidelik u belangstelling in hierdie projek (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

GROND EIENAAR

Lys u vrae, opinies of besorghede in verband met hierdie projek (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

Wat gaan inpak wees?

Verskaf bykommende kontak besonderhede van addisionele persoon/e wie u beskou as potensiële belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde partye:

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

	Selfoon:	
	E-pos:	

Dui u taal van keuse en korrespondensie aan (Merk met X)

Engels

Afrikaans



(Sien omkeer bladsy vir Engels)

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED KAROO
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST,
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1993

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS REPLY FORM

Return completed reply form to: **Ingrid Snyman** of **Batho Earth**

Fax: **012 361 1623**

Phone: **082 779 2750**

E-mail: **ingrid@bathoearth.co.za**

Postal Address: **PO Box 35130, Menlo Park, 0102**

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name & Surname:	FANIE AVENANT		
Organisation & Designation:	PRIVATE		
Postal Address:	P.O. BOX 195 VICTORIA WEST TOTO		
Telephone:	053 621 1010	Cellphone:	082 459 7579
Fax:	—	E-mail:	FANIEAVENANT@ABSAMAIL.CO.ZA

Would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)? YES NO
(please tick the relevant box)

Note: Please register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the project

Please state your interest in the project (add additional pages if necessary):

1. BIOPHYSICAL - HABITAT DISTURBANCE OF FLORA + FAUNA.
2. SOCIAL - DISTURBANCE OF HERITAGE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL + PALAEOLOGICAL SITES.

Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the project (add additional pages if necessary):

I AM INTERESTED IN THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN TO AVOID DISTURBANCE OF THE ABOVE.

Please provide contact details of other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:

Name & Surname:	N/A.		
Organisation & Designation:			
Postal Address:			
Telephone:		Cellphone:	
Fax:		E-mail:	

What is your preferred language of correspondence? (please tick the relevant box) English Afrikaans



(Sien keersy vir Afrikaans)

Bongani Darryl Khupe

From: Diana Verster <diana@bathoearth.co.za>
Sent: 29 March 2011 08:02 PM
To: Gerhard Cronje
Cc: Ingrid Snyman
Subject: Fw: Invite

gerhard comments wessa.

jy het nou alles
diana

----- Original Message -----

From: [Tania Anderson](#)
To: [Diana Verster](#)
Cc: [Suzanne Erasmus](#) ; [Suzanne WESSA](#)
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 9:56 AM
Subject: Re: Invite

Hi Diana

Thanks for your message notifying us of the opportunity to comment. I am one of the persons responsible for commenting on EIAs for WESSA:NC, in a voluntary capacity. I have been very busy and have many EIAs coming in that need commenting on at this stage. I try and prioritise and comment on as many EIAs as I can, but can't get to all of them. I am and will be too busy to comment on this EIA and am also not able to attend the public meeting in Victoria West.

I don't recall registering us as an IP for the project either, so if we can't provide comment due to capacity constraints, we don't want to be listed as an IP with 'no comments' in the Issues and Response report. Rather state that we were invited as an IP for the project, but no response was received from us, or we had insufficient time to comment.

Thanks
Tania Anderson
WESSA:NC committee member

On 7 March 2011 13:14, Diana Verster <diana@bathoearth.co.za> wrote:
Good Day Suzanne,

As the Chairperson for WESSA Northern Cape this email serves to follow-up on WESSA's comments in terms of the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility project near Victoria West. We have sent you a background information document and also provided you an opportunity to review the Scoping Report.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has now entered the EIA phase of the project of which you were also informed. Please find herewith an invitation to our EIA public meeting for the above mentioned project in Victoria West. We would appreciate it if you could attend this meeting or and alternatively provide Batho Earth with comments in order to included this into the Issues and Response report.

If you don't have any comments please can you acknowledge this e-mail and state that WESSA has no comments.

Kind Regards

Diana Verster
MA Geography and Environmental Management

BATHO EARTH
CELL +27 073 1577362
FAX 0878074536

--

This message has been scanned for viruses and
dangerous content by **Pinpoint Securemail**,
and is believed to be clean.

Bongani Darryl Khupe

From: Diana Verster <diana@bathoearth.co.za>
Sent: 29 March 2011 08:01 PM
To: Gerhard Cronje
Cc: Ingrid Snyman
Subject: Fw: Voorgestelde karoo hernieubare kragaanleg op 'n terrein suid van Victoria Wes

Gerhard comments in eia phase - sien onder.
d

----- Original Message -----

From: [Derick Welgemoed](#)
To: 'Diana Verster'
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 6:11 AM
Subject: RE: Voorgestelde karoo hernieubare kragaanleg op 'n terrein suid van Victoria Wes

Hi Diana

Baie dankie vir die terugvoer.
Die inligting oor die terrein is duidelik op die kaart , dankie.

Hoe registreer ek om toekomstige verwikkelinge te kan volg ??

Groete

Derick Welgemoed

From: Diana Verster [mailto:diana@bathoearth.co.za]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 1:57 PM
To: Derick Welgemoed
Cc: Ingrid Snyman
Subject: Re: Voorgestelde karoo hernieubare kragaanleg op 'n terrein suid van Victoria Wes

Middag Derick,

Baie Dankie vir jou e-pos. Sien ASB aangeheg die agtergrond inligting oor die voorgestelde ontwikkeling.

Die eerste fase van die projek is reeds verby en die 'scoping' verslag kan oog op savannah se webblad gesien word, www.savannah.co.za.

Ons het dan ook n publieke vergadering 23 Maart in Victoria Wes. Sien ook aangeheg die uitnodiging. Ek sal terug kom in terme van die afstand tussen Victoria Wes en die voorgestelde ontwikkeling.

Groete
Diana Verster
MA Geography and Environmental Management

BATHO EARTH
CELL +27 073 1577362
FAX 0878074536

----- Original Message -----

From: [Derick Welgemoed](#)
To: ingrid@bathoearth.co.za
Cc: diana@bathoearth.co.za

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 6:40 PM

Subject: Voorgestelde karoo hernieubare kragaanleg op 'n terrein suid van Victoria Wes

Goeie dag Ingrid/Diana

Met verwysing na julle advertensie in die Courier van 11 Maart 2011.

Ek wil graag meer besonderhede bekom oor die voorgestelde ontwikkeling.

Kan u asb vir my meer besonderhede verskaf, veral met betrekking tot afstand vanaf Victoria Wes, hoe vêr die proses gevorder is en wie die potensiële ontwikkelaar is.

Is daar 'n bestuursopsomming wat die kerninligting saamvat??

Groete

Derick Welgemoed

Sel 0834156101

E-pos derick@kambrokaroo.co.za

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**OMGEWINGSIMPAKSTUDIE PROSES: VOORGESTELDE KAROO HERNUBARE
ENERGIE FASILITEIT GELEë OP N TERREIN SUID VAN VICTORIA WES, NOORD
KAAP PROVINSIE**

DEA Verw No. 12/12/20/1993

OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSES REGISTRASIE/KOMMENTAAR VORM

Stuur asb u voltooide registrasie/kommentaar vorm aan: **Ingrid Snyman van Batho Earth**
 Faks: **012 361 1623** Tel: **082 779 2750**
 Eposl: **ingrid@bathoearth.co.za**
 Pos Adres: **Posbus 35130, Menlo Park, 0102**

Verskaf asseblief u persoonlike kontak besonderhede:

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

Russeel J. van Rooy		Selfoon:	0732583648
Johanna Karoo's Primêre Skool - Adjunk Prinsipaal		Vonkpos:	russeelvanrooy@yohoo.co.za
Mafanckraal 25			
Victoria - Wes			
053-6210662			
053-6210541			

Stel u belang om te registreer as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP)? (Merk met X) JA NEE

Nota: Dit word van u vereis om te registreer as 'n B&GP om alle toekomstige inligting in verband met die Omgewingsimpakevalueringproses te ontvang.

Verduidelik u belangstelling in hierdie projek (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

Onderwyser - Belang in ontwikkeling gemeenskap
Area

Lys u vrae, opinies of besorghede in verband met hierdie projek (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

Sosio-ekonomiese impak/ontwikkeling - Spesifiek volhoudbaarheid

Verskaf bykommende kontak besonderhede van addisionele persoon/e wie u beskou as potensiële belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde partye:

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

Johanna Margalite		Selfoon:	07851979774
Onderwyser - Johanna Karoo's Primêre		E-pos:	
053-6210184			
-6210541			

Dui u taal van keuse en korrespondensie aan (Merk met X)

Engels

Afrikaans



(Sien omkeer bladsy vir Engels)

**Omgewingsimpakstudie Proses: Voorgestelde Karoo Hernubare Energie Fasiliteit:
Suid van Victoria-Wes**

1. Belangstelling in Projek

- Ek het in 2007 'n Meesters Graad – MDS Development Studies, Universiteit Vrystaat gedoen (Centre of Development Support)
- Sedertdien was ek betrokke in drie projekte gefasiliteer deur die Universiteit spesifiek:
 - SKA – South Africa, Square Kilometer Array (Socio-Economic Survey of Households – 2009
 - Karoo Development Foundation (Karoo Crafts Co-opcrative) - Survey
- Ek sou graag indien die projek daartoe lei op die wyse betrokke wou raak

2. Lys vrae, opinies/besorgdhede

- Sosio-ekonomiese impak op die area – veral werkskepping (Hoe volhoudbaar kan dit wees?)
- Moontlikhede van vennootskappe (Leun die projek hom daartoe, indien hoe?)

Dankie


R. van Rooy

Bongani Darryl Khupe

From: Ingrid Snyman <ingrid@bathoearth.co.za>
Sent: 25 October 2010 08:03 PM
To: Sindisile Madyo
Cc: Gerhard Cronje; Diana BathoEarth
Subject: Re: EIA SARGE (Pty) Ltd Victoria West

Dear Sindisile Mayo

Thank you for your inputs into the project. Your comments will be included in the project documentation.

Kind regards

Ingrid Snyman
Batho Earth
Mobile: 082 779 2750
Fax: (088) 012 361 1623
PO Box 35130, Menlo Park, 0102
E-mail: ingrid@bathoearth.co.za

----- Original Message -----

From: Sindisile Madyo
To: ingrid@bathoearth.co.za
Cc: pixley@telkomsa.net ; machollen Jack ; Sharon Plaatjies ; Martin Fillis
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 3:38 PM
Subject: EIA SARGE (Pty) Ltd Victoria West

Good day, Ms Ingrid Snyman

I hereby pledge support for the project in my capacity as LED Manager of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. The project falls within the ambit of the Pixley ka Seme Renewable Energy Hub, which is a key ingredient of the District Industrialization process. It conforms with the broader vision of Rural Energy IDZ's linked to other economic development nodes i.e. Square Kilometre Array Telescope development zone extending to about 200km from the core project. This project will further give effect to the development of the N12 economic node linking Ubuntu and Emthanjeni Municipalities respectively. This project complements the Upington-DeAar Solar Corridor (Upington, Grobelaarshoop, Prieska and DeAar) envisaged by the Department of Energy. It is believed that "The creation of one or more Solar Parks in the country can also generate significant economic development and new employment." According to the Clinton Climate Initiative, A Solar Park is a concentrated zone of solar development that includes thousands of megawatts ("MW") of generation capacity. One or more parcels of land in close proximity are designated and pre-permitted as a Solar Park. Individual solar plants developed by multiple power producers are constructed on the land in a clustered fashion and on a predictable timeline, sharing common transmission and infrastructure". This perspective on solar parks opens opportunities for clustering similar projects closer to this development as means to realise the Renewable Energy Hub. The project is aligned to the District vision with regard to diverse generation sources. The Investment & Renewable Energy Conference held on 26-29 September 2010, endorsed the statement drawn from the Renewable Energy Hub Concept document which states that " Pixley ka Seme District is a part of the Karoo that is unspoilt, unpolluted environment of abundant natural resources ideal for the development of a Renewable Energy Hub. Blessed with much sunshine (solar), steady winds (wind turbines), vegetation (bio-mass) and plentiful water (hydro), it is well positioned to answer the call for more green power. It is said that the rivers of the Karoo flow underground, a fact supported by the number of wind-pumps sucking water from subterranean depths to supply livestock drinking troughs and farmsteads. However, it must be remembered that a major portion of the Orange River – over 500kms worth - flows through the Karoo. Two large dams are found along this watercourse, the Vanderkloof Dam (second largest in South Africa), and the Boegoeberg Dam northwest of Prieska. The Vaal River at Douglas adds to this profusion of water, yet, in terms of a renewable energy infrastructure, these resources remain virtually untapped. The LED Unit endorses the project without any reservations.

Regards

Sindisile Madyo
LED Manager
Pixley ka Seme District Municipality
Cell:084 6730997
Office: 053 6310891
email: excellentsolutions@live.co.za
cc: pixley@telkomsa.net

--

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Bongani Darryl Khupe

From: Mmamoloko Seabe <Jeanette.Seabe@eskom.co.za>
Sent: 03 March 2011 08:45 AM
To: Diana Verster
Cc: Ingrid Snyman; Itumeleng Moeng; Gerhard Cronje
Subject: Re: Fw: Fw: Karoo Renewable Energy Facility

Importance: High

**** High Priority ****

Dear Diana,

My apologies for not responding in time since then. Could you please provide me with the details of the projects and I will allocate this to one of managers to look at it.

Regards

Mmamoloko Seabe
Senior Manager: Land & Rights
Transmission Projects & Engineering
Tel: 011 800 2345
Cell: 082 801 3911

>>> "Diana Verster" <diana@bathoearth.co.za> 2011/03/03 06:42 AM >>>
Good Day Mmamoloko,

Please refer to my e-mails below. I herewith would like to follow-up, for we have since our last correspondence not received any comments from Eskom. As stated Eskom is an adjacent property owner and through the EIA process we need to obtain comments and issues from interested and effected parties.

In terms of Network planning for renewable projects within Eskom we contacted Mr Riaan Smith. He is you're your Western Cape office. However he will only comment on network planning and not as an adjacent property owner?

Your assistance and feedback will be greatly appreciated.

Diana Verster
MA Geography and Environmental Management

BATHO EARTH
CELL +27 073 1577362
FAX 0878074536

----- Original Message -----

From: "Diana Verster" <diana@bathoearth.co.za>

To: "Mmamoloko Seabe" <Jeanette.Seabe@eskom.co.za>

Cc: "Ingrid Snyman" <ingrid@bathoearth.co.za>

Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 7:55 AM

Subject: Re: Fw: Karoo Renewable Energy Facility

> Good Morning,

>

>

>

> Thanks for responding. The proposed project borders Eskom property, and is

> also very close to the Gamma Substation near Victoria West, Eastern Cape.

> Thus we need to inform Eskom as an adjacent property owner and also we

> need to determine how the proposed project will have an impact on Eskom as

> an electricity provider to the area?

>

>

>

> Hope the above provides more clarity, and will also assist as to whom the

> correct person is which we should contact?

>

>

>

> Thanks again.

>

>

>

> Diana Verster

> MA Geography and Environmental Management

>

>

>

> Batho Earth

> CELL +27 073 1577362

>

>

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: "Mmamoloko Seabe" <Jeanette.Seabe@eskom.co.za>

> To: "Diana Verster" <diana@bathoearth.co.za>

> Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 12:49 AM

> Subject: Re: Fw: Karoo Renewable Energy Facility

>

>

> NB: This email and its contents are subject to the Eskom Holdings Limited

> EMAIL LEGAL NOTICE

>

> which can be viewed at http://www.eskom.co.za/email_legalnotice

>

> -----
>
> ** High Priority **
>
>
>
>
> Dear Diana,
>
>
>
> Would you like me to respond in my capacity as a representative of Eskom
> as an IAP or is there something more you would like me to assist with?
>
>
>
> As an IAP, we will register using your form and the correct person from
> our Network planning section will also do the same.
>
>
>
> regards
>
>
>
> Mmamoloko Seabe
>
> Senior Manager: Land & Rights
>
> Transmission Projects & Engineering
>
> Tel: 011 800 2345
>
> Cell: 082 801 3911
>
>
>
>
>
>>>> "Diana Verster" <diana@bathoeath.co.za> 2010/10/25 04:21 PM >>>
>
> Good Day Mmamoloko,
>
>
>
> Please refer to my e-mail below and attached to Tumi. It was then
> indicated that you are the correct person from Eskom to contact. Please
> advise?
>
>
>
> Your feedback will be greatly appreciated
>
>
>
> Diana Verster
>

> MA Geography and Environmental Management

>

>

>

> BATHO EARTH

>

> CELL +27 073 1577362

>

>

>

>

>

> ----- Original Message -----

>

> From: Diana Verster

>

> To: Itumeleng Moeng

>

> Cc: Ingrid Snyman

>

> Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 3:12 PM

>

> Subject: Fw: Karoo Renewable Energy Facility

>

>

>

>

>

> Hi Tumi

>

>

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>

>

> How are you? How is the family? Well here we are doing fine - having a
> baby in the house is quite hectic, but also very rewarding - but you know
> all that.

>

>

>

>

>

>

>

> The main reason for my e-mail is that I am hoping you could assist us.
> Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. has been appointed by South African
> Renewable Green Energy (Pty) Ltd. (SARGE) to undertake an Environmental
> Impact Assessment for the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility. Batho
> Earth has been appointed by Savannah Environmental to undertake the
> necessary public participation process.

>

>

>

>

>
>
>
> The proposed project is proposed on a site located approximately 34km
> south of Victoria West and would include a wind energy facility component
> and a photovoltaic solar facility component, as well as associated
> infrastructure to be constructed over an area of approximately 200 km2 in
> extent.

>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Please find attached a letter introducing the project to you as well as a
> Background Information Document. The main reason for contacting you is
> that you will see from the BID map that the proposed site borders Eskom
> property and is very close to the Gamma Substation. We would thus like to
> enquire who from Eskom we can register on our project database and who we
> can communicate with in order to obtain feedback from Eskom. The proposed
> project will have an impact on Eskom and perhaps the proposed project will
> utilise Eskom property.

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> I am not sure if you are the correct person, apologies but it would be
> greatly appreciated if you can perhaps guide us to the correct person or
> department.

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> Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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>
> Regards

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>
> Diana Verster
>
> MA Geography and Environmental Management
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>
>
> BATHO EARTH
>
> CELL +27 073 1577362
>
> FAX 0878074536
>
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>
> ----- Original Message -----
>
> From: Ingrid Snyman
>
> To: jfhbotha@gmail.com
>
> Cc: Diana BathoEarth
>
> Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2010 12:32 PM
>
> Subject: Karoo Renewable Energy Facility

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>
> Dear Mr. Johan Botha
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>
> Our telephone conversation on 21 October 2010 refers.

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>
> Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd. has been appointed by South African
> Renewable Green Energy (Pty) Ltd. (SARGE) to undertake an Environmental
> Impact Assessment for the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility. Batho
> Earth has been appointed by Savannah Environmental to undertake the
> necessary public participation process.

>
>
>
> The proposed project is proposed on a site located approximately 34km
> south of Victoria West and would include a wind energy facility component
> and a photovoltaic solar facility component, as well as associated
> infrastructure to be constructed over an area of approximately 200 km2 in
> extent.

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>
> Please find attached a letter introducing the project to you as well as a
> Background Information Document. Please complete the registration sheet
> and return it to Ingrid Snyman.

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> For more information at this stage you are welcome to contact me.

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> Kind regards

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>
>
> Ingrid Snyman

>
> Batho Earth
>
> Mobile: 082 779 2750

>
> Fax: (088) 012 361 1623
>
> PO Box 35130, Menlo Park, 0102
>
> E-mail: ingrid@bathoearth.co.za

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> --
>
> This message has been scanned for viruses and
>
> dangerous content by Pinpoint Securemail,
>
> and is believed to be clean.

> --
>
> This message has been scanned for viruses and
>
> dangerous content by Pinpoint, and is
>
> believed to be clean.
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>
> NB: This email and its contents are subject to the Eskom Holdings Limited
> EMAIL LEGAL NOTICE which can be viewed at
> http://www.eskom.co.za/email_legalnotice
>

--
This message has been scanned for viruses and
dangerous content by Pinpoint, and is
believed to be clean.

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at http://www.eskom.co.za/email_legalnotice

**CENTRAL
SENTRAAAL KAROO**DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT / DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
UMASIPALA WESITHILI SASE63 Donkin Street
Donkinstraat 63
Private Bag X560
Privaatsak X560
Ingxowa X560
BEAUFORT WES(T)/ BHOBHOFULO
6970IFaxel / Fax / Faks: 023 - 415 1253
IFowuni / Tel: 023 - 449 1000
E-mail: skdm@intgnext.co.za

Enquiries: B.L. Brown

Reference: 18/9/4/4

Date : 29 October 2010

Batho Earth
Attention: Ingrid Snyman
P.O. Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

Fax No: 086 684 0547

Madam

KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY

Please find attached the completed registrationform for interested and affected parties from the Central Karoo District Municipality.

We trust you will find everything in order.

Yours sincerely,

S. JOOSTE
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1993

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS REPLY FORM

Return completed reply form to: **Ingrid Snyman of Bathe Earth**

Fax: **086 684 0547**

Phone: **082 779 2780**

E-mail: **ingrid@batheearth.co.za**

Postal Address: **PO Box 148 Sunninghill, 2157**

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name & Surname:

Barbara Brown

Organisation & Designation:

Central Karoo District Municipality

Postal Address:

63 Donkin Street

Beaufort West, 6970

Telephone:

023 449 1000

Cellphone:

Fax:

023 - 415 1253

E-mail:

barbara@stdm.co.za

Would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)? YES NO
(please tick the relevant box)

Note: Please register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the project
Please state your interest in the project (add additional pages if necessary):

[Empty box for stating interest in the project]

Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the project (add additional pages if necessary):

[Empty box for listing questions, views or concerns]

Please provide contact details of other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:

Name & Surname:

[Empty box]

Organisation & Designation:

[Empty box]

Postal Address:

[Empty box]

Telephone:

[Empty box]

Cellphone:

[Empty box]

Fax:

[Empty box]

E-mail:

[Empty box]

What is your preferred language of correspondence? (please tick the relevant box) English Afrikaans



(Sien keersy vir Afrikaans)