



Dear Stakeholder

EIA PROCESS FOR THE PROPOSED MIDDLEBURG SOLAR PARK (FORMER FLAGGING TREES WIND ENERGY FACILITY NEAR MIDDLEBURG, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF PROJECT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In April 2010, the Scoping Phase of the EIA for the Flagging Trees Wind Energy Facility was completed. As a registered interested and/ affected party for the proposed Flagging Trees Wind Energy Facility, please be informed of the following:

- » The Flagging Trees site was previously investigated by African Clean Energy Developments (ACED) for the establishment of a wind energy facility, but has proven to be unfeasible for this technology due to the limited wind resource measured on the site. The site has, however, proven viable for the development of a Photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility.
- The new PV solar energy facility is referred to as the Middleburg Solar Park. A new EIA process for this proposed development has been initiated and the project has been registered with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA, under new DEA Reference numbers: 12/12/20/2465/1 and 2 (see below).
- » Based on the motivation supplied to the National Department of Environmental Affairs in terms of GN R543 20(4), a downscaling from a full EIA to a **Basic Assessment Process** has been approved for the proposed Middleburg Solar Park and therefore a Basic Assessment process is being undertaken by Savannah Environmental for the proposed project.

THE MIDDLEBURG SOLAR PARK

The Middleburg Solar Park is located on the same site as the former Flagging Trees wind energy facility. The development of the Middleburg Solar Park project will be split into 2 development phases to be known as **Middleburg Solar Park 1** and **Middleburg Solar Park 2**. Each of these parks will to be operated by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be established for the project and therefore separate Environmental Authorisations would be required for each park. However, a single EIA process is being undertaken as the sites are adjacent to one another.

The project is proposed of the following farm portions:

- » Middleburg Solar Park 1 Remainder of Farm 11 (Twee Fontein)
- » Middleburg Solar Park 2 Portion 4 of Farm 11 (Twee Fontein)

The PV solar energy facilities are proposed to each accommodate an array of **photovoltaic (PV) panels** with a generating capacity for each project as follows:

- » Middleburg Solar Park 1 Up to 75MW
- » Middleburg Solar Park 12- Up to 75MW

Other infrastructure associated with each PV facilities will include:

- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels;
- Cabling between the project components, to be lain underground where practical; and that will connect to the existing Ludlow substation which is located on the site;
- » Internal access roads; and
- » Office building / workshop.

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 – R546, a Scoping and EIA process is required to be undertaken for the proposed project. However based on the motivation supplied to the National Department of Environmental Affairs in terms of GN R543 20(4), a **downscaling** from a full EIA to a Basic Assessment Process has been approved for the proposed project and therefore a **Basic Assessment process** is being undertaken for the proposed project. The project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs as the **competent authority** under application reference number 12/12/20/2465/1 and 12/12/20/2465/2.

In this regard, ACED has appointed **Savannah Environmental** to undertake the required Basic Assessment process to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts that might arise as a result of the proposed project. **Sustainable Futures ZA** is assisting Savannah Environmental in the process through the facilitation of the public participation process, which forms part of the overall Basic Assessment process. You and/or the organisation/department which you represent have been identified as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). Should you have an interest in this project, please register yourself as an I&AP and note your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard. All comments received will form part of the Comments and Response Report that will be included in the Final Basic Assessment Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). By submitting your details and comments to Sustainable Futures ZA, you are ensured that your comments, concerns or queries will be noted. To obtain further information and

register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to the contact person below.

AVIABILITY OF A DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, a Draft Basic Assessment Report will be available for public review and comment by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and stakeholders. You will be informed on the 30-day public review period which will occur in March 2012. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

Please submit your comments to

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA

PO Box 749, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701 Fax: 086 510 2537 E-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za

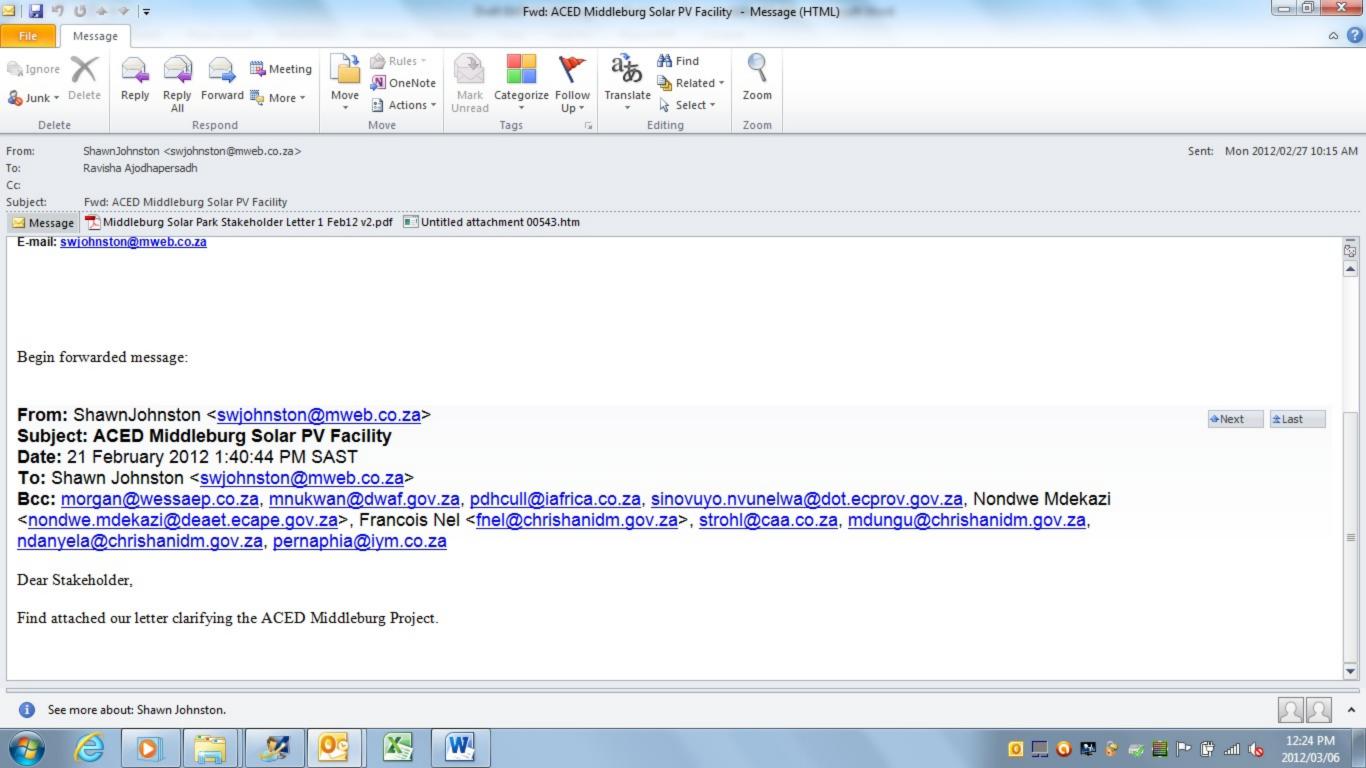
PUBLIC MEETING

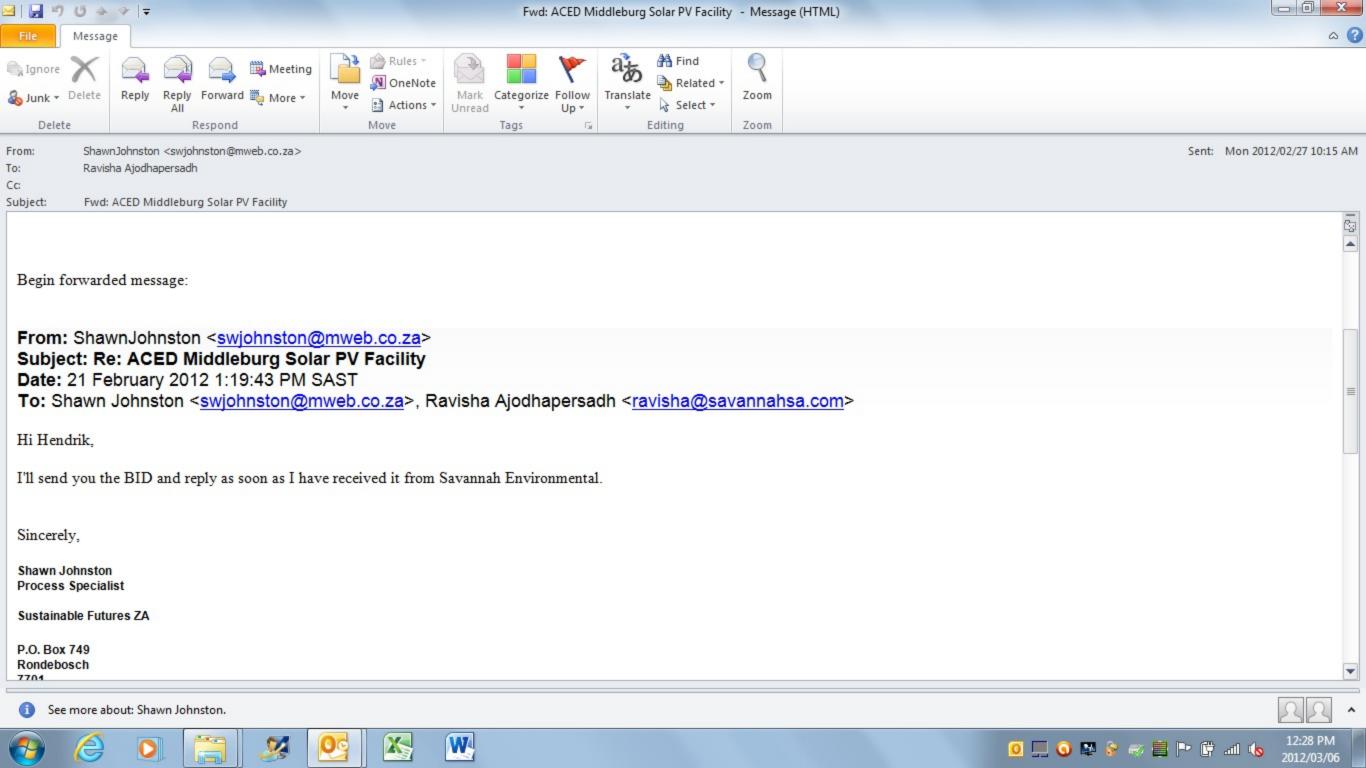
In order to facilitate comments on the draft Basic Assessment Report, a public meeting will be held during the public review period. All interested and affected parties will be informed on the public meeting details in March 2012. The aim of the public meeting is to provide you with more information regarding the proposed project (including technical details, project process and timeframes etc.), to provide a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment undertaken, to invite comment on the proposed project, and to further discuss possible issues of specific concern to you which may need to be addressed.

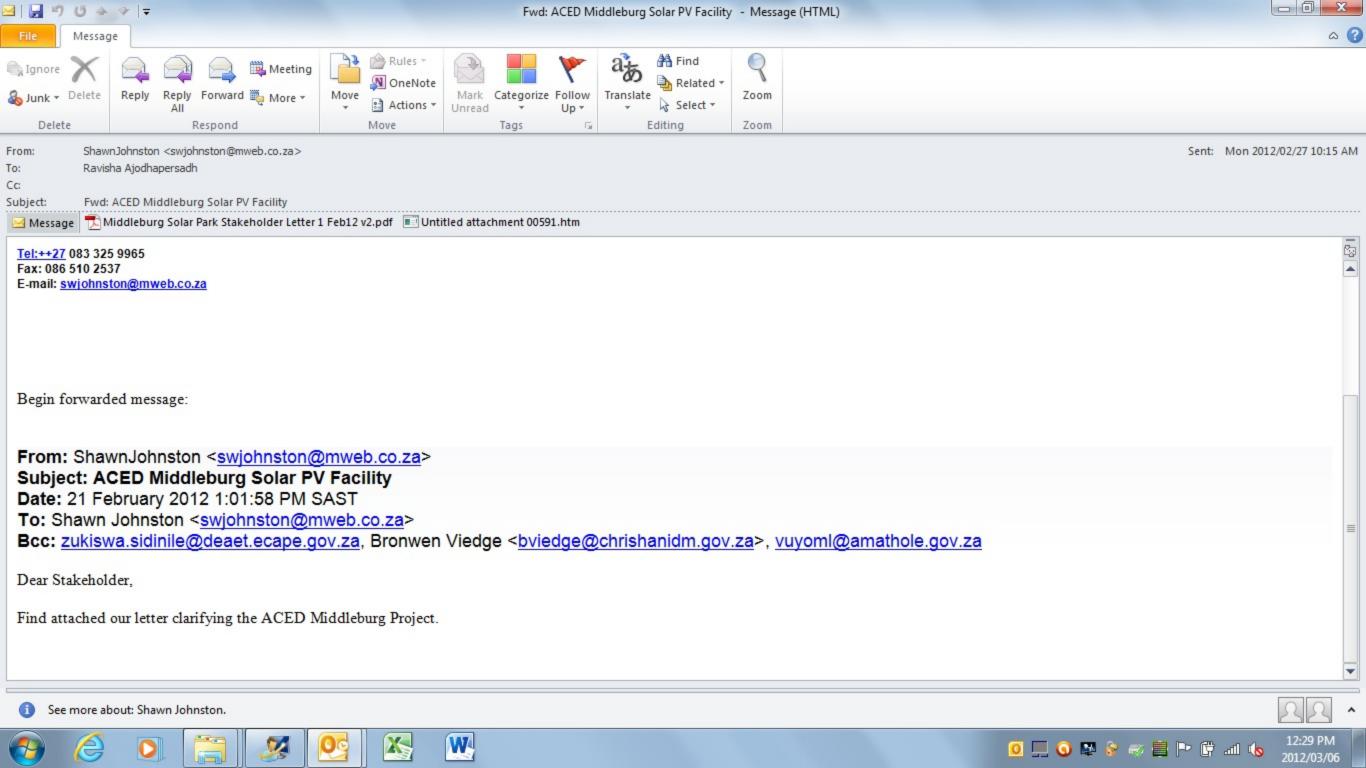
Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

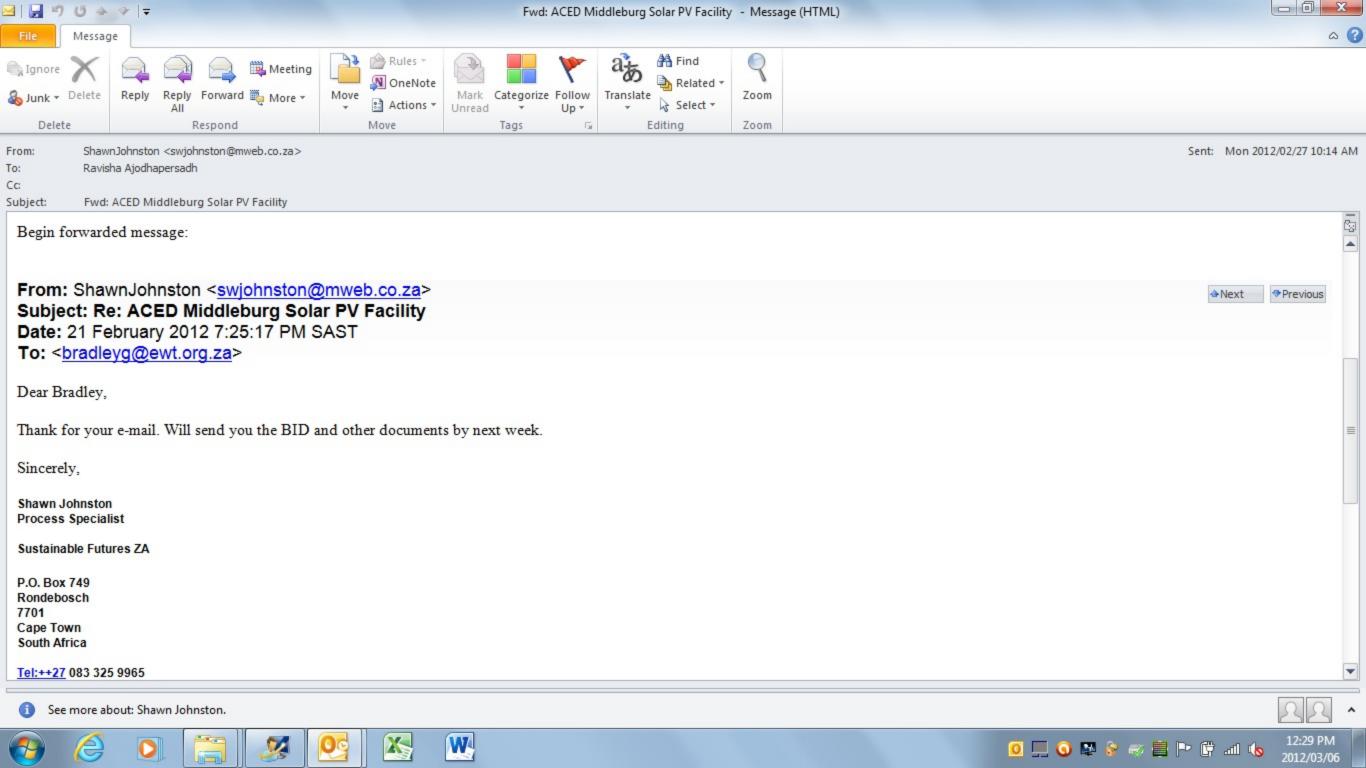
Yours sincerely

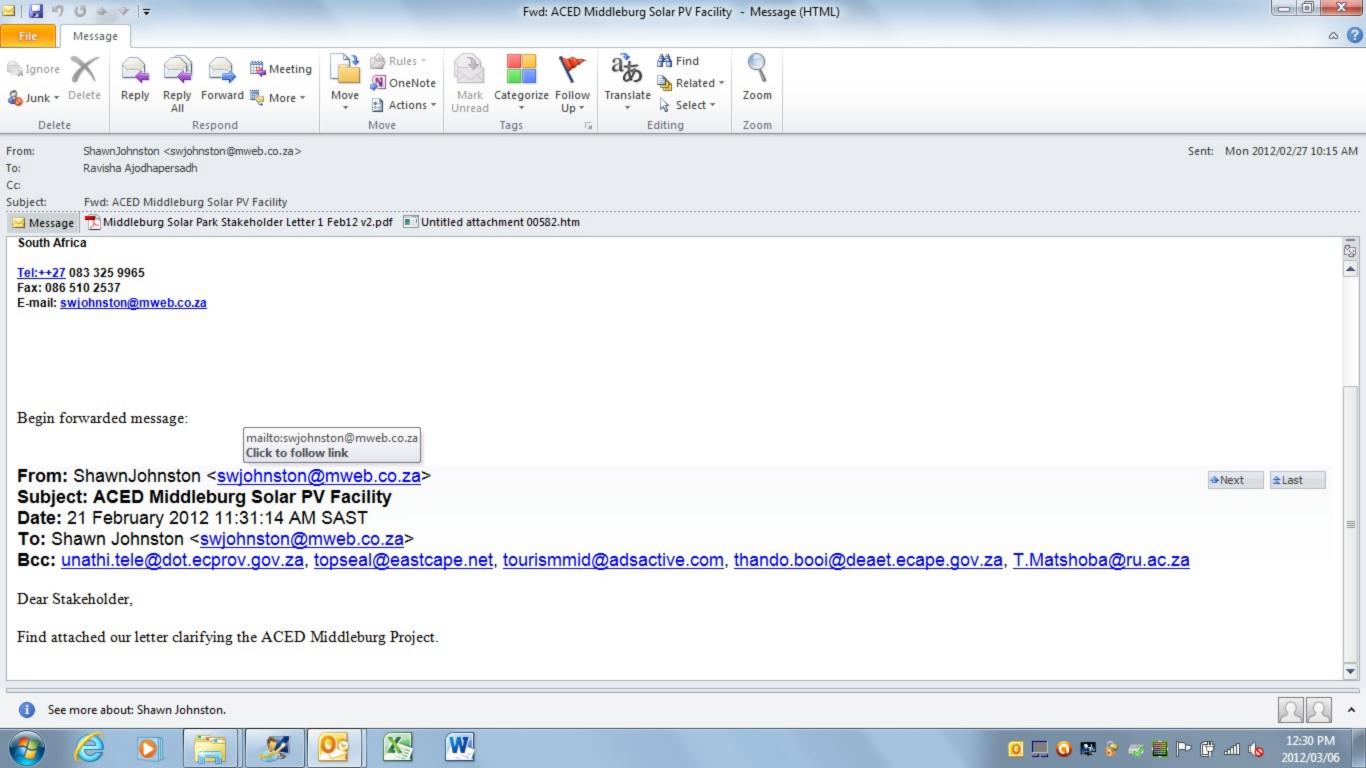
Shawn Johnston

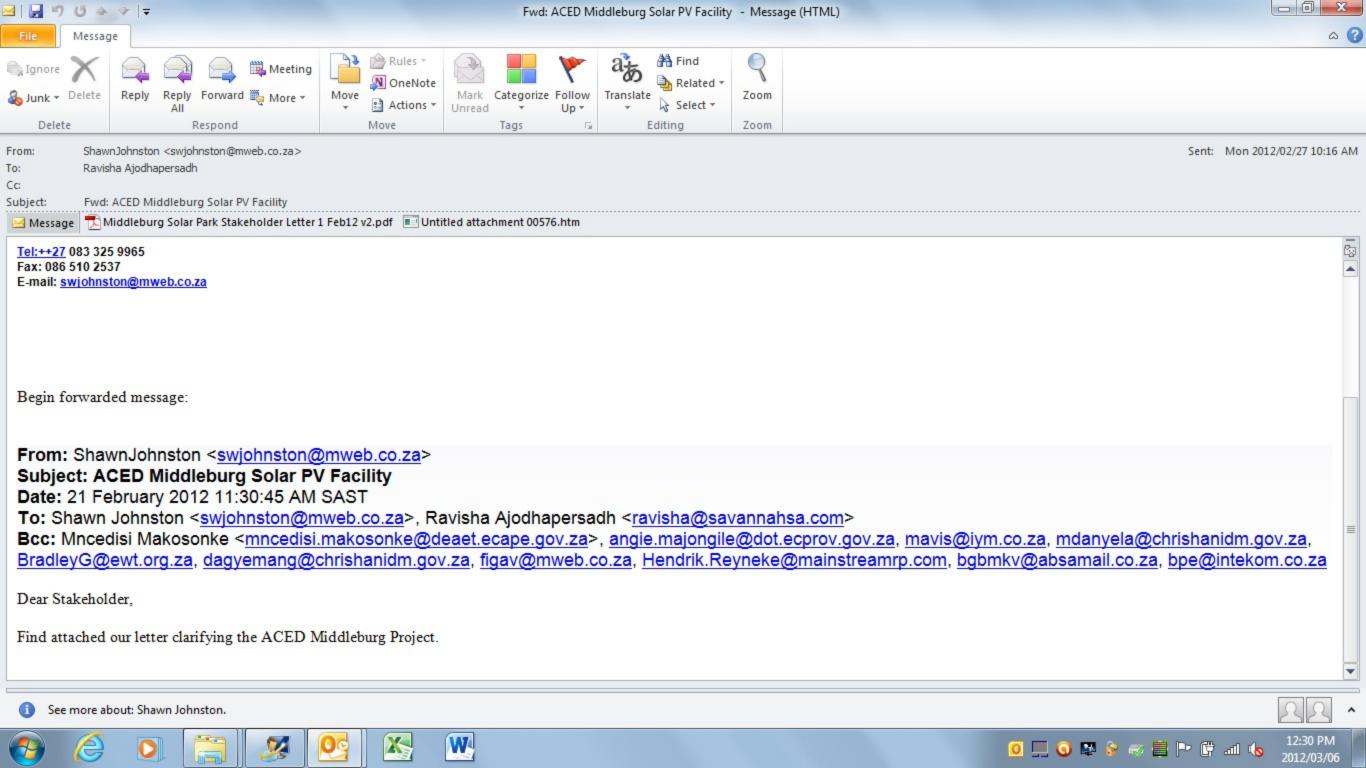














06 March 2012

Dear Stakeholder

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MIDDLEBURG SOLAR PARK, EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

African Clean Energy Developments (Pty) Ltd (ACED) is proposing the development of a commercial Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility on a site located approximately 20 km north of Middelburg (Eastern Cape Province) and ~14 km south of Noupoort (Northern Cape Province). This site was previously investigated by ACED for the establishment of a wind energy facility, but has proven to be unfeasible for this technology due to the limited wind resource measured on the site, however the site has proven viable for the development of a PV solar energy facility. This project will be split into 2 development phases to be known as **Middleburg Solar Park 1** and **Middleburg Solar Park 2**. Each of these parks will to be operated by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be established for the project and therefore separate Environmental Authorisations would be required for each park. However, a single EIA process is being undertaken as the sites are adjacent to one another.

The project is proposed of the following farm portions:

- » Middleburg Solar Park 1 Remainder of Farm 11 (Twee Fontein)
- » Middleburg Solar Park 2 Portion 4 of Farm 11 (Twee Fontein)

The PV solar energy facilities are proposed to accommodate an array of **photovoltaic** (PV) panels with a generating capacity for each project as follows:

- » Middleburg Solar Park 1 Up to 75MW
- » Middleburg Solar Park 12- Up to 75MW

Other **infrastructure** associated with each PV facility will include:

- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels;
- » Cabling between the project components, to be lain underground where practical; and that will connect to the existing Ludlow substation which is located on the site;
- » Internal access roads; and
- » Office building / workshop.

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 – R546, a Scoping and EIA process is required to be undertaken for the proposed project. However based on the motivation supplied to the National Department of Environmental Affairs in terms of GN R543 20(4), a **downscaling** from a full EIA to a Basic Assessment Process has been approved for the proposed project and therefore a **Basic Assessment process** is being undertaken for the proposed project. The project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs as the **competent authority** under application reference number 12/12/20/2465/1 and 12/12/20/2465/2.

In this regard, ACED has appointed **Savannah Environmental** to undertake the required Basic Assessment process to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts that might arise as a result of the proposed project. **Sustainable Futures ZA** is assisting Savannah Environmental in the process through the facilitation of the public participation process, which forms part of the overall Basic Assessment process. You and/or the organisation/department which you represent have been identified as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). Should you have an interest in this project, please register yourself as an I&AP and note your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard. All comments received will form part of the Comments and Response Report that will be included in the Final Basic Assessment Report which will be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). By submitting your details and comments to Sustainable Futures ZA, you are ensured that your comments, concerns or queries will be noted.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to the contact person below.

INVITATION TO REVIEW THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, a Draft Basic Assessment Report has been compiled and will be available for public review and comment by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and stakeholders. You are invited to review and comment on the draft report at the following locations:

Middleburg Library	
Noupoort Library	
www.savannahSA.com	

The 30-day period for review is from **12 March 2012 to 16 April 2012**. Please submit written comment to Savannah Environmental no later than

06 April 2012. All comments received will be included in the Final Basic Assessment Report, which will be submitted to DEA for their consideration and decision.

Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

Please submit your comments to

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA

PO Box 749, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701 Fax: 086 510 2537

E-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za

The due date for comments on the Draft Basic Assessment Report is **06 April 2012.**

PUBLIC MEETING

In order to facilitate comments on the draft Basic Assessment Report, a public meeting will be held during the review period. All interested and affected parties are invited to attend a public meeting:

DATE: TUESDAY, 13 MARCH 2012 VENUE: MIDDLEBURG TOWN HALL

TIME: 17:30 -18:30

The aim of the public meeting is to provide you with more information regarding the proposed project (including technical details, project process and timeframes etc.), to provide a summary of the findings of the Basic Assessment undertaken, to invite comment on the proposed project, and to further discuss possible issues of specific concern to you which may need to be addressed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Yours sincerely

Shawn Johnston

