




SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD				ATTENDANCE REGISTER			
Project	Oryx, Grootkop & Everest Solar Energy Facilities			Meeting	Focus Group Meeting: Lejeweletswa District Municipality		
Date	Wednesday 5 June 2013	Time	9h00	No.		Venue	Lejeweletswa District Municipality, Cnr. Tempest and Jan Hofmeyer Streets, Welkom

	Organisation	Name & Postal Address	Contact Details	Signature
1	Savannah Environmental	Gabi Wood	Tel : 011 656 3237.	
	Designation		Fax :	
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2	Dewald Kirsten	P.O. Box 2163 Welkom.	Tel : 057-391298	
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3	Savannah Environmental	Lusani Kathanya	Tel : 011 656 3237	
	Designation		Fax :	
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4	FRV ENERGY SA LTD	ROMANA DORASAMY	Tel :	
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**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
ASSESSMENT PROCESS
ORYX SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY,
FREE STATE**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS
SCOPING PHASE
FOCUS GROUP MEETING**

NOTES OF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

**HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2013**

VENUE

**LEJEWELUTSWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
CNR. TEMPEST AND JAN HOFMEYER STREETS, WELKOM**

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

Contact: Gabriele Wood
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Sunninghill, 2157
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E-mail: gabriele@savannahsa.com

Notes for the Record prepared by:

Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
ORYX SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, FREE STATE**

Venue: Lejeweletswa District Municipality

Date: Wednesday 5 June 2013.

Time: 09h00

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Gabriele Wood of Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd introduced herself as the public participation consultant for the proposed Oryx Solar Energy Facility project. She noted that the project is being proposed by FRV Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd and that Savannah Environmental has been appointed as the independent environmental consultancy to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project.

Ms Wood thanked Mr Dewald Kirsten of the Lejeweletswa District Municipality for the opportunity to brief him about the proposed Oryx Solar Energy Facility project. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to present the findings of the Draft Scoping Report and to obtain comments on the report and project in general. She said that all comments made would be recorded and submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as part of the Final Scoping Report.

MEETING ATTENDEES

Name	Organisation & Position
Romaya Dorasamy (RD)	FVR Energy SA LTD – Project Manager
Lusani Rathanya (LR)	Savannah Environmental – Environmental Assessment Practitioner and Environmental Control Officer
Dewald Kirsten (DK)	Lejweleputswa District Municipality – Manager Environmental Management
Gabriele Wood (GW)	Savannah Environmental – Public Participation and Social Consultant

APOLOGIES

None

BACKGROUND & TECHNICAL ASPECTS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Lusani Rathanya of Savannah Environmental presented the background and introduction to the project and provided an overview of the potential environmental impacts of the project identified in the draft Scoping Report. (Please refer to the attached presentation).

DISCUSSION SESSION

Question / Comment	Response
<i>DK:</i> Is this the first renewable energy project in South Africa?	<p><i>GW:</i> No, there are a number of renewable energy projects being implemented throughout South Africa under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme.</p> <p><i>RD:</i> There are wind, solar and hydro facilities being developed in South Africa.</p>
<i>DK:</i> Will solar panels be located above the ground surface?	<i>LR:</i> Yes. Solar panels are located 4 meters off the ground.
<i>DK:</i> Is vegetation going to be planted between the solar panels?	<i>RD:</i> Most of the vegetation will not be disturbed as the solar panels will be fixed to poles which are installed into the ground directly.
<i>DK:</i> What is the distance between the rows of the solar panels? What is the total length of the rows of solar panels?	<i>RD:</i> The export capacity of the solar farm would be 75MW which is approximately 180ha to 240ha of land. The maximum height of the solar panels is 4m. The distance between the rows of the solar panels would be enough to ensure a small crane can be used if necessary.
<i>DK:</i> Can the land in between the solar panels be utilized productively?	<p><i>LR:</i> Normally, the land in between the solar panels is used for grazing but it is limited to sheep. Cows could damage the panels.</p> <p><i>RD:</i> Although grazing can occur, it is not encouraged since we want to minimize damage to the equipment as far as possible.</p>
<i>DK:</i> What fencing will be used to secure the area?	<i>RD:</i> In order to reduce the visual impact, a ordinary farm fence will be used to secure

Question / Comment	Response
	the solar energy facility.
<i>DK:</i> How many jobs will be created by the project?	<i>LR:</i> Approximately 160 jobs will be created during the construction phase. Approximately 30 permanent jobs will be created during the project's operational phase.
<i>DK:</i> Will the developer implement a social responsibility programme for this project?	<i>RD:</i> The Department of Energy requires that a community trust be established. 2.5% - 5% of the profit generated by the project must be given back to the community through the implementation of local economic development projects identified in the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP).
<i>DK:</i> Will the electricity generated by the solar energy facility be supplied directly into Eskom's grid?	<i>LR:</i> The electricity generated by the solar energy facility will be sold to Eskom. Eskom will distribute the electricity to where it is needed.
<i>DK:</i> How will the site be rehabilitated once the project's life-span has come to an end?	<i>RD:</i> The solar panels and all other infrastructure will be removed and the area would be restored to the condition it was before construction commenced. <i>LR:</i> The EIA will include a decommissioning plan.
<i>DK:</i> Will electricity be supplied to the local municipality?	<i>GW:</i> The IPP Procurement Programme allows electricity producers to sell electricity to Eskom only. Municipalities will continue to purchase electricity from Eskom.
<i>DK:</i> When will construction of the project commence?	<i>RD:</i> Construction will commence in 2015 if the DoE awards the project.

WAY FORWARD AND CLOSURE

In closing Ms Wood noted that the Draft Scoping report is currently out for public review. She noted that the comment period will close on 24 June 2013. She stated that the comments received would be responded to and added to the Final Scoping Report that would be submitted to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Ms Wood thanked Mr Kirsten for availing himself for the meeting and the inputs which were provided.



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WELKOM CITY LIBRARY

CNR. TULBACH & REINETTE STREETS, WELKOM

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Savannah Environmental

Please address any comments to Gabriele Wood at the above address.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING:
ORYX SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY, FREE STATE

Venue: Welkom City Library, Cnr. Tulbach and Reinette Str. Welkom
Date: Tuesday 4 June 2013
Time: 09h00

NOTES

A public meeting was arranged for the proposed Everest Solar Energy Facility Project on Tuesday 4 May 2013 at 16h00 at the Welkom City Library in Welkom, Free State Province. No one attended the public meeting. The project team waited until 16:30 before vacating the venue and cancelling the public meeting. A public meeting will be convened in the Environmental Impact Assessment phase of the project.

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