

16 February 2012

Dear Organ of State

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

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**NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF PROJECT AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
PROCESS**

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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 laid 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. In terms of the NEMA Amendment Act a **40-day review period** will be allowed for commenting authorities / **organs of state** to submit their comments on this draft report to DEA. **Please can you provide the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project.** By registering on the project database, you would receive all relevant information regarding the project and would be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the EIA process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information regarding the proposed project.

Yours sincerely

Ravisha Ajodhapersadh  
(not signed sent via email)

Tel: 011 234 6621

Fax: 086 684 0547

Unit 606, 1410 Eglin Office Park, 14 Eglin Road, Sunninghill











PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

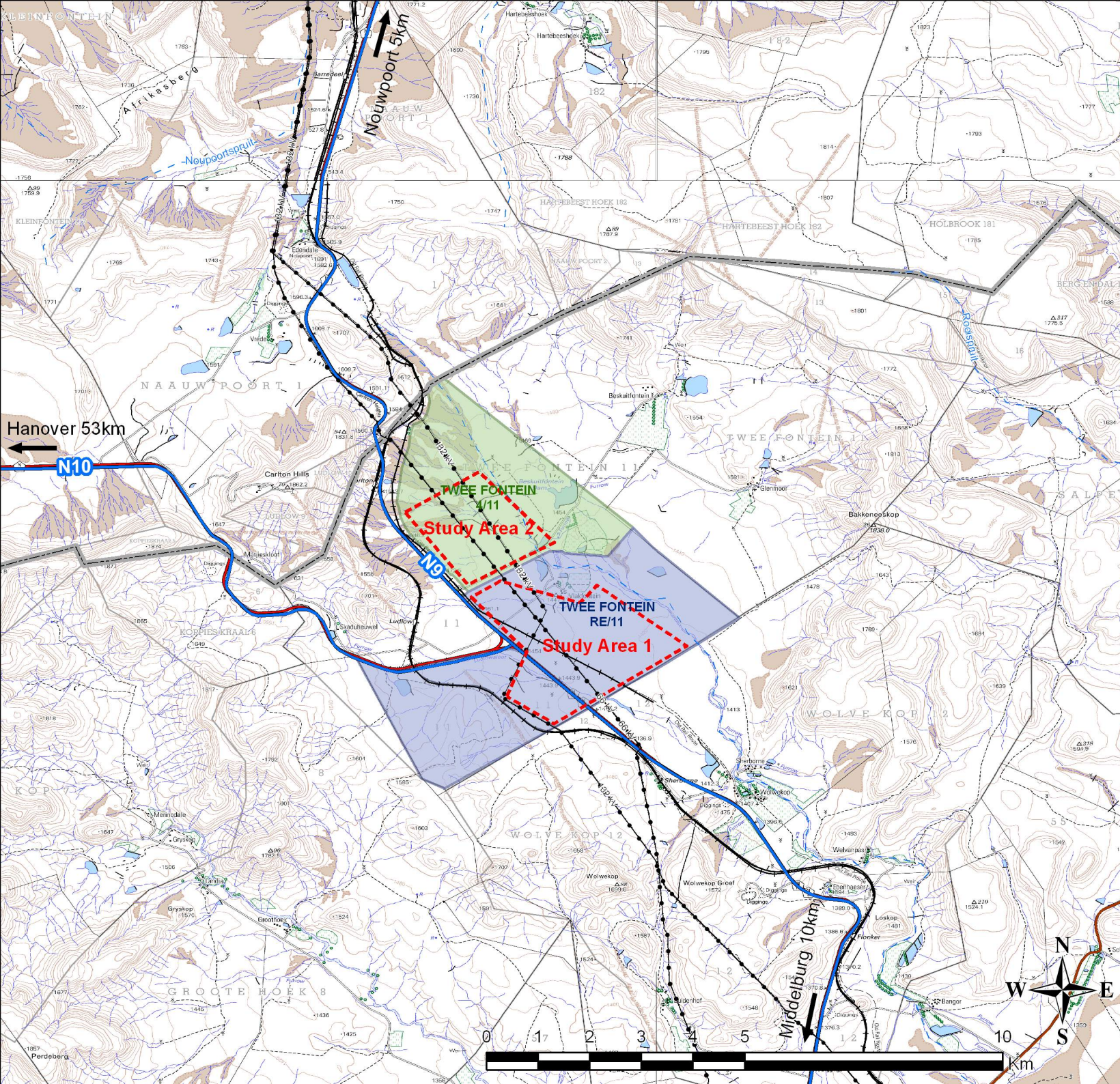
<http://www.savannahsa.com>

# Middelburg Solar Energy Facility

## Locality Map

### Legend

-  National Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Railway Line
-  Perennial River
-  Non-perennial River
-  Power Line
-  Provincial Boundary
-  Tweefontein RE/11
-  Tweefontein 4/11
-  Study Boundary



File Message



You forwarded this message on 2012/02/16 12:36 PM.

From: Ravisha Ajodhapersadh <ravisha@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Thu 2012/02/16 12:31 PM

To:

Cc:

Bcc: 'andries.struwig@deaet.ecape.gov.za'; 'zukiswa.sidinile@deaet.ecape.gov.za'; 'sivenkosi@iym.co.za'; 'communications@chrishanidm.gov.za'; 'StrohL@caa.co.za'; 'angie.majongile@dot.ecprov.gov.za'; 'MGALIMBERTI@sahra.org.za'; 'mnukwan@dwaf.gov.za'; AnnelizaC@nda.agric.za; 'petern@sanparks.org'

Subject: Notification of EIA process for the the Middleburg Solar Park, Eastern Cape

Message Middleburg Solar Park Organs of State 16Feb12.pdf (2 MB)

Dear Sir / Madam

Attached please find a letter of notification for an EIA process for the Middleburg Solar Park, Eastern Cape Province.

In terms of the NEMA Amendment Act a 40-day review period will be allowed for commenting authorities / organs of state to submit their comments on the draft Basic Assessment report to DEA.

***Please can you provide the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project.***

By registering on the project database, you would receive all relevant information regarding the project and would be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the EIA (basic assessment) process.

Kind Regards

Ravisha Ajodhapersadh

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
Unit 606, 1410 Eglin Office Park  
14 Eglin Road  
Sunninghill  
2157

Tel: +2711 234-6621

Fax: +2786 684 0547

Cell: +2784 300 0660

Email: [ravisha@savannahsa.com](mailto:ravisha@savannahsa.com)

[www.savannahSA.com](http://www.savannahSA.com)



Ravisha Ajodhapersadh



| Addressee  | Start Time  | Time     | Prints  | Result | Note |
|------------|-------------|----------|---------|--------|------|
| 0413983222 | 02-16 12:30 | 00:01:18 | 004/004 | OK     |      |

Note TMR: Timer TX, POL: Polling, ORG: Original Size Setting, FME: Frame Erase TX,  
MIX: Mixed Original TX, CALL: Manual TX, CSRC: CSRC, FWD: Forward, PC: PC-Fax,  
BND: Double-Sided Binding Direction, SP: Special original, FCODE: F-code, RTX: Re-TX,  
RLV: Relay, MBX: Confidential, BOL: Bulletin, SIP: SIP Fax, IPADR: IP Address Fax,  
I-FAX: Internet Fax

Result OK: Communication OK, S-OK: Stop Communication, PW-OFF: Power Switch OFF,  
TEL: RX from TEL, NG: Other Error, Cont: Continue, No Ans: No Answer,  
Refuse: Receipt Refused, Busy: Busy, M-Full: Memory Full,  
LOVR: Receiving length Over, POVR: Receiving page Over, FIL: File Error,  
DC: Decode Error, MDN: MDN Response Error, DSN: DSN Response Error.

From the desk of Ravisha Aledhanersadh  
E-mail: ravisha@savannahSA.com



16 February 2012

Dear Organ of State - *CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION*

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| Addressee  | Start Time  | Time     | Prints  | Result | Note |
|------------|-------------|----------|---------|--------|------|
| 0488811421 | 02-16 12:34 | 00:01:30 | 004/004 | OK     |      |

Note TMR: Timer TX, PDL: Polling, ORG: Original Size Setting, FME: Frame Erase TX,  
MIX: Mixed Original TX, CALL: Manual TX, CSRC: CSRC, FWD: Forward, PC: PC-Fax,  
BND: Double-Sided Binding Direction, SP: Special original, FCODE: F-code, RTX: Re-TX,  
RLY: Relay, MBX: Confidential, BUL: bulletin, SIP: SIP Fax, IPADR: IP Address Fax,  
I-FAX: Internet Fax

Result OK: Communication OK, S-OK: Stop Communication, PW-OFF: Power Switch OFF,  
TEL: RX from TEL, NG: Other Error, Cont: Continue, No Ans: No Answer,  
Refuse: Receipt Refused, Busy: Busy, M-Full: Memory Full,  
LOVR: Receiving length Over, POVR: Receiving page Over, FIL: File Error,  
DC: Decode Error, MDN: MDN Response Error, DSN: DSN Response Error.

From the desk of Ravisha Ajodhapersadh  
E-mail: ravisha@savannahSA.com



16 February 2012

Dear Mr Sydney Goniwe (Ward Councillor – Ward 3)

Fax: 048 881 1421

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