

Appendix F6
Comments Recieved

The bottom of the page features a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping geometric shapes. On the left, a large grey triangle points downwards. To its right, a red triangle points upwards. Further right, another grey triangle points downwards, and a red triangle points upwards. These shapes overlap to create a dynamic, abstract composition.

Nicolene Venter

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 06:52
To: Ria Barkhuizen (NR)
Subject: RE: SE3406: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE VAAL RIVER SOLAR PV FACILITIES, SUBSTATION AND 132kV POWER, NEAR ORKNEY NORTH WEST PROVINCE
Attachments: 15. Appendix H - Maps.pdf; VRS 1- Original EA and Amended EAS.pdf

Good day,

Please find attached the maps as requested and the original application form which should have the coordinates too.

Should you require anything else please let us know.

Kind regards,



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f: +27 (0) 86 684 0547

Nondumiso Bulunga

Lead Consultant: Social, Stakeholder
Engagement & GIS

e: nondumiso@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 79 458 0862

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015

Processing of personal information / POPIA compliance

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This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and automatically archived by **Mimecast SA (Pty) Ltd**, and is believed to be clean.

From: Ria Barkhuizen (NR) <Barkhuizenr@nra.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 July 2022 07:38
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: SE3406: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE VAAL RIVER SOLAR PV FACILITIES, SUBSTATION AND 132kV POWER, NEAR ORKNEY NORTH WEST PROVINCE
Importance: High

Good day

Please supply SANRAL with an A4 locality map as well as GPS co-ordinates for your application.

Please send requested information together with whole application to nrstat@nra.co.za as this email will be deleted as it is incomplete.

Kind regards

Ria



public works & roads

Department:
Public Works and Roads
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Modiri Molema Road
Old Parliament Complex
Mmabatho, 2735
Private Bag X 2080, Mmabatho,

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Tel.: +27 (18) 388 1398
Email: Sitase@nwp.gov.za
Enq: K A Sitase

DIRECTORATE: PLANNING AND DESIGN

Ref: R33_11-1-1-3-1_SE3406_Vaal River PV Facilities

SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148

Sunninghill

2157

For attention: **Nondumiso Bulunga**

COMMENTS/ CONSENT IN TERMS OF ACT NO 21 OF 1940 AND ROADS ORDINANCE NO 22 OF 1957 AS AMENDED: NOTICE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VAAL RIVIER SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITIES, SUBSTATION AND 132 kV POWERLINE ON PORTIONS 3 OF FARM VAALKOP 439 IP, PORTION 200 OF THE FARM NOOITGEDACHT 434 IP, AND PORTION 4 OF THE FARM MODDERFONTEIN 441 IP, MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

AFFECTED PROVINCIAL ROAD (S) : P137/1_030 (R502)

MUNICIPALITY : MATLOSANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

TOWN/ TOWNSHIP/ FARM : PTN 3-VAALKOM 439 IP, PTN 200-NOOITGEDACHT 434 IP, PTN 4-MODDERFONTEIN 441 IP

REGISTRATION NUMBERS : DFFEB NO 12/12/20/2513/1, 12/12/20/2513/2, 12/12/20/2513/3 AND 12/12/20/2513/4

CLIENT(S)/ APPLICANT : BUFFELSPOORT SOLAR PROJECT (PTY) LTD

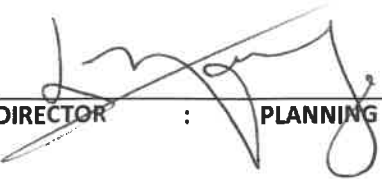
Your communication dated **05 July 2022** has reference. This consent is issued in terms of the **Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act No 21 of 1940** and **Roads Ordinance No 22 of 1957** as amended.

There is no objection to the proposed development, subject to the strict adherence of the attached **Specific and Special Conditions** and should form part of the proposed planning/ development, also that the conditions/requirements listed below are imposed and met in all respects by the applicant:



NOTE : A written confirmation of acceptance of the attached conditions is required. In the event of not receiving a written acceptance of conditions, the approval is withdrawn and this approval is cancelled.

Yours faithfully



DIRECTOR : PLANNING AND DESIGN

LA MAFUNE

20/07/2022

DATE

cc. : Robert Logtenberg, Tel. No.076 501 0088/ 018-293 7660, Private Bag X 928, Potchefstroom, 2520; RLogtenberg@nwpg.gov.za

Attached : Locality Map_SE3406_Vaal River Solar PV Facilities, Substations and 132kV Powerline and Google_SE3406_Vaal River PV Facilities



A SPECIFIC AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS: PROPOSE ACCESS (ES)

NB : This comments is granted in favour of **VAAL RIVIER SOLAR 1, 2 & 3 (PTY) LTD** and **KABI SOLAR (PTY) LTD** as stipulated in the application.

1. ILLEGAL/ INFORMAL ACCESS (ES)

1.1 If there is any existing informal access (es) to the Provincial Road **P137/1_030 (R502)** in the radius of less than 650 m from the approved/ existing/ proposed access (es) will be illegal therefore should be closed along the affected Provincial road(s), and the traffic should be directed to the approved access (es).

1.2 No additional access (es) will be allowed to Provincial Road(s) **P137/1_030 (R502)** at all, without the written approval of the Controlling Authority (Department of Public Works and Roads).

2. ACCESS TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The existing access(es) to the affected land i.e. **Locality Map_SE3406_Vaal River Solar PV Facilities, Substations and 132kV Powerline** will be used for the above-mentioned development(s).

No additional access (es) will be allowed to Provincial Road(s) **P137/1_030 (R502)** at all, without the written approval of the Controlling Authority (Department of Public Works and Roads).

3 LINES OF NO ACCESS

3.1 No ingress to or egress from the existing Road(s) **P137/1_030 (R502)** to the above-mentioned proposed development other than the one mentioned in **paragraph 2** will be allowed, without the written approval of the Controlling Authority (Department of Public Works and Roads).

4. ADDITIONAL STRUCTURES

No structures will be allowed inside the road reserve of Road(s) **P137/1_030 (R502)** without the written approval of the Controlling Authority (Provincial Department of Public Works and Roads)



B GENERAL/ CONDITIONS FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

NB : This Comments is granted in favour of **VAAL RIVIER SOLAR 1, 2 & 3 (PTY) LTD** and **KABI SOLAR (PTY) LTD** as stipulated in the application.

5 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS OF JUNCTION(S) ON A PROVINCIAL ROAD(S)

5.1 The minimum requirements of Intersection on a Provincial Road, as illustrated by the attached Typical Plan No: **NWP 3/6** for standard accesses on provincial roads.

5.2 **Layout plans** – Tapers, Acceleration and Deceleration Lanes, are a must for any access. A separate **Left-turn lane(s)**, with a **Slip-Lane(s)**, and dedicated **Right-Turning Lane(s)** from both directions shall be provided if more than **250 vehicles per hour** in any hour of a day are turning left out of the main road, as illustrated by the attached Typical Plan No: **Typical Plan_NWP 3-4**, (*but less than 250 vehicles per hour* then Typical Plan No: **Typical Plan_NWP 3-3** is applicable) for standard accesses on provincial roads.

Note: Should the need arise, the applicant shall build the above-mentioned development at own cost under the supervision of a Professional Civil Engineer to the satisfaction of the **Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads**

5.3 Provision must be made for **15 x 45 m** road reserve splays or as determined by the Director-Roads/ Engineer. These road reserve splays must be fenced by the applicant/owner at his/her cost.

Note: The longest distance is measured parallel to the main road. Attached please find Typical Plans: **NWP 5-1** indicating the required road reserve splays and relevant type of access.

6. BUILDING LINE

The above mentioned Provincial Road(s), have a **95m Standard Building Line**.

6.1 Building restriction areas in compliance with the requirements of Executive Committee Resolution 1112 of 26 June 1978 is as per paragraph 4.1 (Road Ordinance): The **standard building line** applicable is **95 m** measured from the centre of these roads.



6.2 ROAD RESERVE WIDTHS OF THE AFFECTED PROVINCIAL ROADS

Provision must be made for the following road reserves/ streets and must be excluded from the proposed development:

- i) Road P137/1_030 (R502) with the road reserve width of about 48 m

6.3 BUILDING LINE RELAXATION

The *Department of Public Works and Roads (DPWR)* is hereby grant the **minimum relaxation of the building line** from the **Standard 95m** as stated by **Clause 4: Standard Building Line** above as follows.

Also see the attached *Sketch Plans Road Reserve Widths*.

- i. **Road Reserve Width of 48 m** : The Building Line Relaxation is **45 m** from the centre of the Road Reserve; *(i.e. 29 m from road reserve boundary)*.

7. ABNORMAL TRUCKS/ EQUIPMENTS

Department of Public Works and Roads should also be notified with any of the intention of transporting abnormal trucks/ equipments on any of the above stated provincial road(s).

8. BLASTING/ EXPLOSIVE OF ROCKS

Any unstable conditions encountered or any rock requiring blasting to be reported directly and immediately to the *Departmental Roads Engineer/ Manager*.

Blasting to be done in accordance with the current applicable Explosives Regulations (e.g. Act No 26 of 1956) and possible damage to the road must be excluded as far as possible.

Any damage to the road caused by unstable soil conditions (subsidence, etc.) or blasting must be repaired to the satisfaction of the: *Departmental Roads Engineer/ Manager*.



9. DAMAGED/ REMOVAL OF PROPERTIES

No trees, shrubs, cultivated grass, gates or road fencing must be removed or damaged within the Road Reserve of the affected(s). If such plants or fenced were removed or damaged you will have to replace it to the entire satisfaction of the *Departmental Roads Engineer/ Manager*.

10. NOTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT: WAYLEAVE APPLICATIONS

Based on the above-mentioned provincial road(s), the department should be notified (with appropriate detailed plans) about any intention or planning and before the commencement of the following: -

- Change of Land Utilisation (*e.g. From Agriculture to Business/ Settlements, etc*).
- Construction of any structures (*e.g. Buildings*) along the affected road(s).
- Construction of Permanent or Temporary Access (es) from the said provincial road(s).
- Erection and or construction of Overhead and or Underground Services (*e.g. Water & Sewerage pipe lines, Electrical and Telephone Cable Lines*) across or parallel to the affected road(s).
- Closing and or Deviation of part or section(s) of the above stated provincial road(s).
- Advertisement along the affected road(s).
- Working inside the road reserves of any of the affected road(s).
- Temporary or Permanent Closure of Traffic on either of the above stated provincial road(s).

11. GEOMETRIC DESIGN AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE NEW ACCESS

11.1 For the construction of the access (es) the applicant (whoever is responsible for the construction thereof) shall submit to the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads, for his approval, a geometric layout plan(s) to a scale of 1: 500, prepared and signed by a Professional Civil Engineer.

11.2 For the construction of the access (es) the applicant (whoever is responsible for the construction thereof) shall submit to the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads, for his approval, a specifications, for the building thereof.



12. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ACCESS

- 12.1** After the plans and specifications stated in paragraph **11.1** and **11.2** above, have been approved by the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads, the applicant shall build the access(es) **at own cost** under the supervision of a Professional Civil Engineer to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads.
- 12.2** On completion of the work, the Professional Civil Engineer shall certify, that work has been carried out in accordance with the approved plan(s) and specifications.
- 12.3** The certificate of completion shall be handed over to the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads, with the copy to the Deputy Director General: Relevant Authority of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment Affairs.

13 PERMISSION TO WORK INSIDE THE ROAD RESERVE

The applicant shall not commence with work inside the road reserve until he has obtain written approval from the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads to do so.

14 INDEMNITY OF THE PREMIER AGAINST CLAIMS

- 14.1** You indemnify the **PREMIER OF NORTH WEST** and exempt him from any claim or damage which may be instituted or suffered by any person, including legal costs, as a result of the laying or erection of any service or any other works caused or erected by you, or as a result of negligence on your part to protect or maintain the service or other works caused by any other person unless you can prove negligence on the part of Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport or its officials.
- 14.2** The Department of Public Works and Roads will not be liable for any damage suffered by the applicant as a result of operations carried out on road construction or road maintenance or any other operations whatsoever, unless negligence on the part of Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport or its officials can be proved.



14.3 The applicant shall indemnify the Department of Public Works and Roads or its officials and workers against any claims arising out of any death of or injuries to any person or damage to any property whatsoever (including services such as water pipes, telephone and or electric cables, etc,) caused by or resulting from the activities of the applicant in the road reserve.

14.4 **Where someone other than the state**, applicant is responsible for the construction of the access (es), the applicant shall take out a policy covering him to the amount to be stipulated by the Controlling Authority (Department of Public Works and Roads).

This is necessary to enable the applicant to comply with the above requirements. Before any work is done in the road reserve, the applicant shall deliver proof that the policy has been taken out and all costs of it have been paid.

15 LAND USE ALONG THE ROAD(S)

15.1 Land use of even build on the lines of no access shall be in accordance with the requirements of Executive Committee Resolution 1112 of 26 June 1978.

15.2 The applicant shall not erect/ built either permanent or temporarily structures, and or any informal structures along the above-mentioned provincial roads inside the road reserve until he has obtain written approval from the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads to do so

16 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COST OF (ACOUSTIC SCREEING) NOISE BARRIER

The applicant shall be responsible for any costs involved in the erection of Acoustic Screening (Noise Barrier).

17 ACCEPTANCE AND DISPOSAL OF STORM WATER

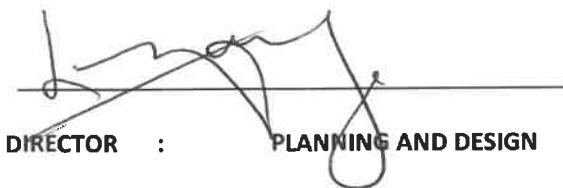
17.1 In terms of Section 84 of the road Ordinance, 1957, the applicant shall arrange the drainage of the proposed development(s) in such way that it fit in with the drainage of the provincial Road(s)**P137/1_030 (R502)**, taking into account the capacity of the system.



- 17.2** The applicant/ local authority or whoever responsible for the drainage of the proposed development(s) shall receive and dispose all the storm water running from the road or being diverted from the road.
- 17.3** The state or the Provincial Administration will not be responsible for any damage caused by arising from such storm water.
- 17.4** Where, in the opinion of the Deputy Director General: Department of Public Works and Roads, the system for the above-mentioned road(s) is too small to cope with any increased volume of the storm as a result of the establishment or proposed development(s), the applicant/ local authority (whoever responsible for the drainage) shall be responsible for the cost of installing a larger drainage system for the provincial Road(s) **P137/1_030 (R502)**.
- 17.5** The applicant/ local authority or whoever responsible for the drainage of the proposed development(s) shall built/ construct the drainage scheme at own cost simultaneously with the construction of the access (es).

It will be appreciated if you would kindly ensure that all the above conditions are included in the proposed and intended developments. Should you have any question and or clarification in regard to the above-mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact this Department.

Yours faithfully


DIRECTOR : PLANNING AND DESIGN

L A MAFUNE

20/07/2022

DATE

ATTACHED : Typical Plan No: **NWP 3/3; 3/4 & 5 /1**

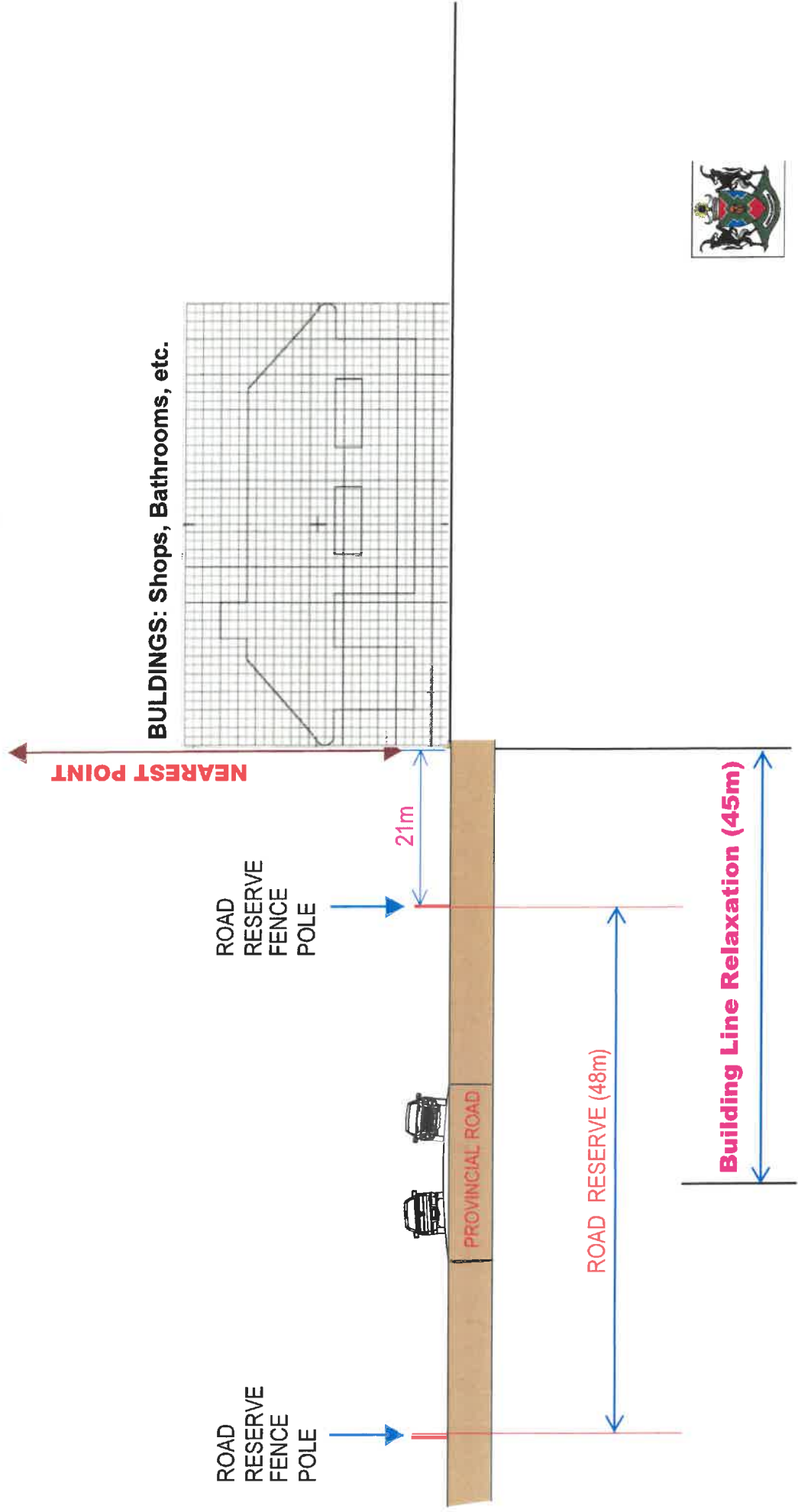
: : Locality Map_SE3406_Vaal River Solar PV Facilities, Substations and 132kV Powerline and **Google_SE3406_Vaal River PV Facilities**

: **Sketch Plan_48m Rd Reserve_Building Line Relax_Buildings**



MINIMUM BUILDING LINE RELAXATION

FILLING STATION ALONG PROVINCIAL ROAD

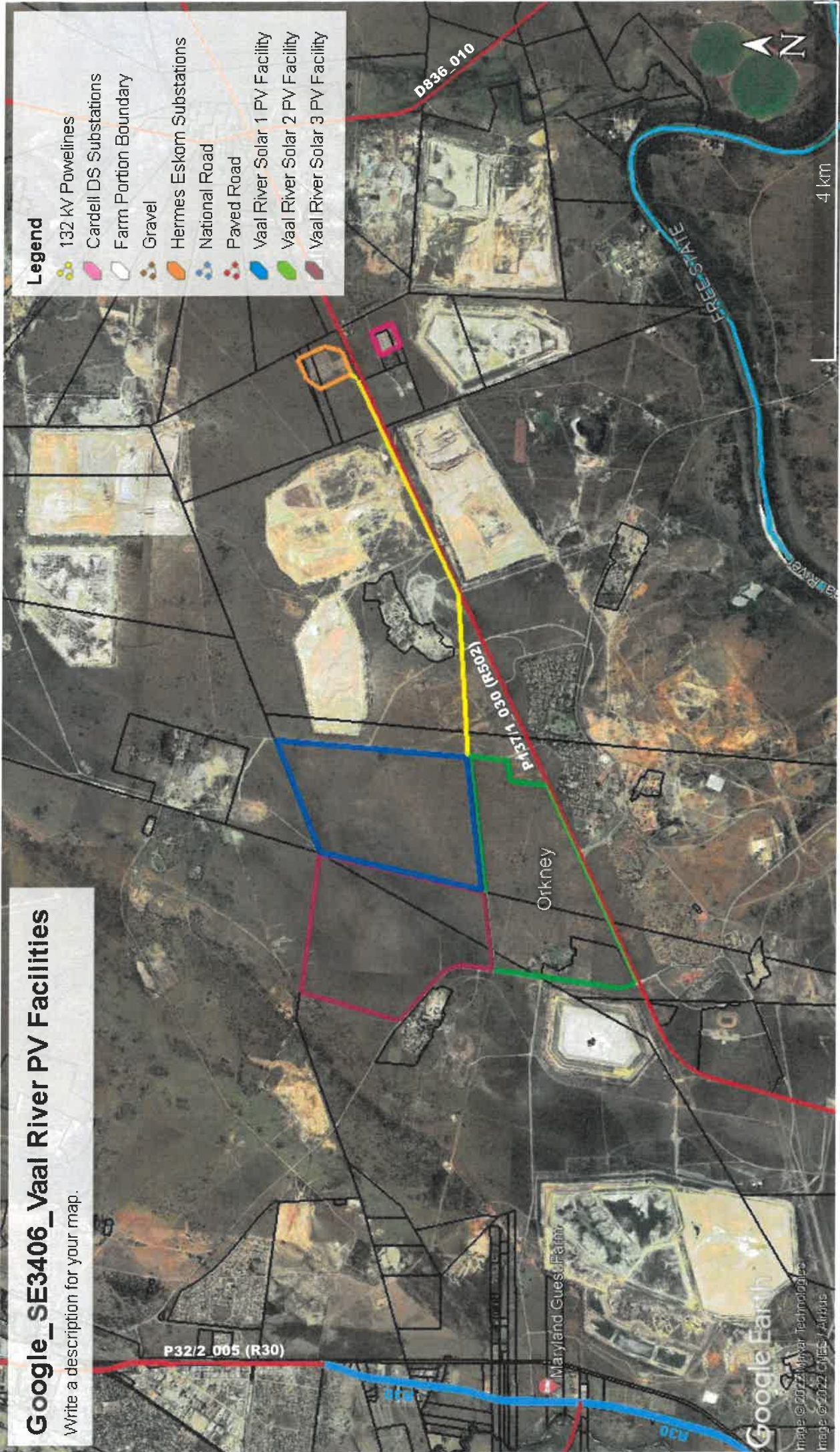


Google_SE3406_Vaal River PV Facilities

Write a description for your map.

Legend

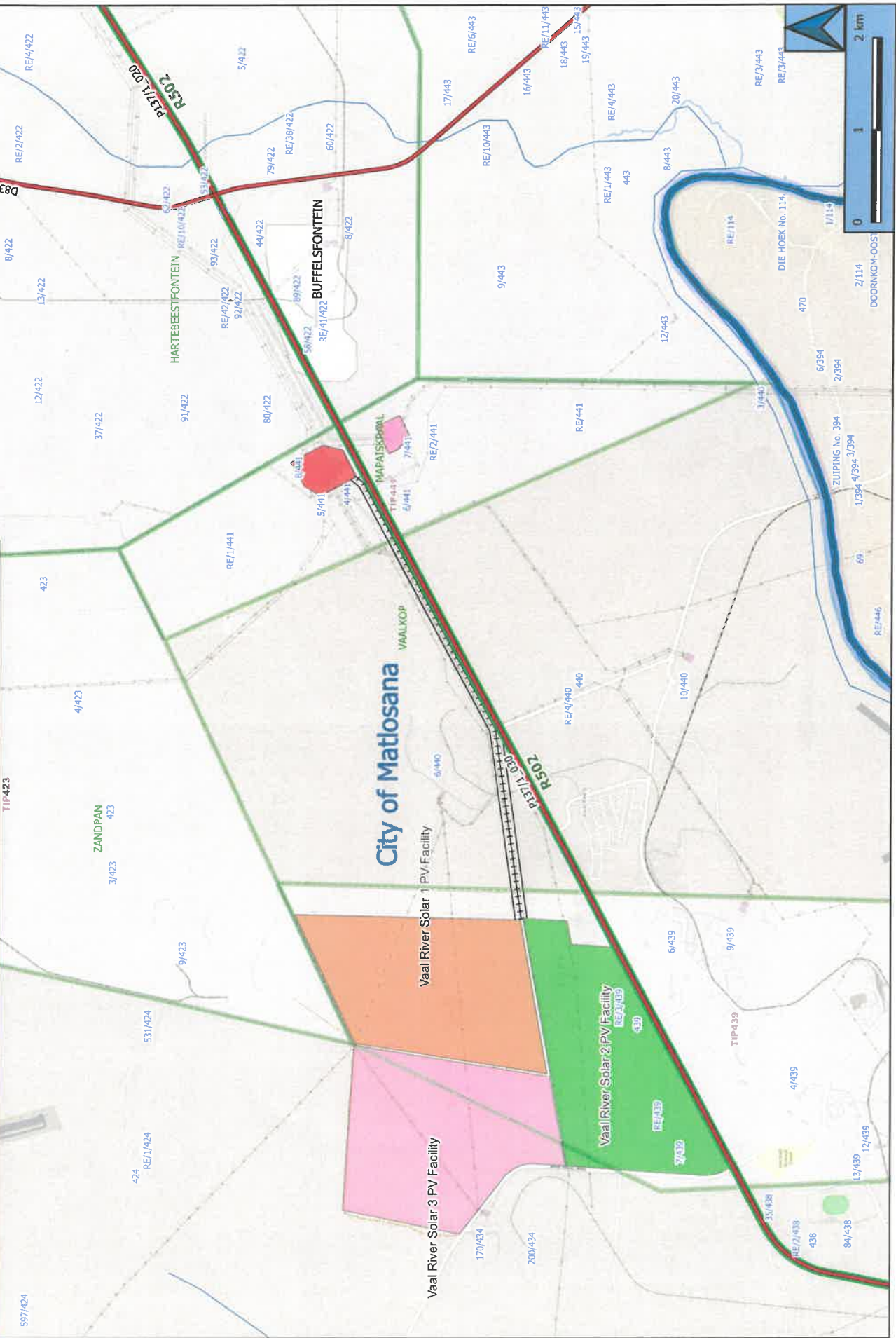
- 132 KV Powelines
- Cardell DS Substations
- Farm Portion Boundary
- Gravel
- Hermes Eskom Substations
- National Road
- Paved Road
- Vaal River Solar 1 PV Facility
- Vaal River Solar 2 PV Facility
- Vaal River Solar 3 PV Facility



Google Earth

made © 2022 Maxar Technologies
made © 2022 CNES / Airbus

Locality Map_SE3406_Vaal River Solar PV Facilities, Substations and 132kV Powerline



597/424
TIP/423
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forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 12/12/20/2513/2/AM5

Enquiries: Mr Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 **E-mail:** HAlberts@dfffe.gov.za

Ms Karen Jodas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: karen@savannahsa.com

PER EMAIL

Dear Ms Jodas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MOTIVATION REPORT FOR THE APPLICATION FOR AMENDMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION ISSUED ON 10 OCTOBER 2012 FOR THE VAAL RIVER SOLAR 1 PV FACILITY NEAR ORKNEY IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the above-mentioned project dated 10 October 2012, the application for amendment of the EA received on 04 May 2022, the acknowledgment letter dated 10 May 2022 and the draft motivation report received on 06 July 2022, refer.

The Department has the following comments on the abovementioned motivation report:

(a) Public participation

- (i) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final report. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this application.
- (ii) The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this comments letter.
- (iii) Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs' comments.
- (iv) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft report from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final report.
- (v) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final report. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

JCA

(b) Specific comments

- (i) The report must include details of the BESS facility, which must include inter alia: the size, the location and the technology of the BESS. A detailed description of the installation process must be included (i.e., the battery will be assembled on site or offsite);
- (ii) A detailed motivation as to why the Department should extend the commencement period of the authorised development, including the advantages and disadvantages associated with the approval or refusal to the request for extension;
- (iii) The status (baseline) of the environment (social and biophysical) that was assessed during the initial assessment (by the relevant specialist, if applicable);
- (iv) The current status of the assessed environment (social and biophysical) (by the relevant specialist, if applicable);
- (v) A review of all specialist studies undertaken, and a detailed assessment, including a site verification report providing an indication of the status of the receiving environment (by the relevant specialist, if applicable);
- (vi) Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final motivation report. The forms are available on the Department's website (please use the Department's template).
- (vii) The terms of reference for the specialist reports and declaration of interest of each specialist must be provided;
- (viii) The report must indicate if the impact rating as provided in the initial assessment remains valid; if the mitigation measures provided in the initial assessment are still applicable; or if there are any new mitigation measures which need to be included into the EA, should the request to extend the commencement period be granted by the Department;
- (ix) An indication if there are any new assessments/guidelines which are now relevant to the authorised development which were not undertaken/considered as part of the initial assessment; these must be taken into consideration and addressed in the report;
- (x) A description and an assessment of any changes to the environment (social and biophysical) that has occurred since the initial EA was issued;
- (xi) A description and an assessment of the surrounding environment, in relation to new developments or changes in land use which might impact on the authorised project; the assessment must consider the following:
 - a. similar developments within a 30km radius;
 - b. Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e., hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - c. Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - d. The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - e. A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

The EAP must ensure that the amendments applied for does not trigger any listed or specified activity as outlined in Regulation 31 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 as amended. You are also reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Ms Milicent Solomons
Acting Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach
Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 02 August 2022

cc:	Mike Levington	Vaal River Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd	Email: mike.levington@kabisolar.co.za
	Poncho Mokaila	NW DEDECT	Email: pmokaila@nwpg.gov.za
	Tyron du Plessis	City of Matlosana Local Municipality	Email: tduplessis@klerksdorp.org

Our Ref:



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

Tel: 0214624502

Email: ekatsetse@sahra.org.za

CaseID: 19004

Date: Friday July 29, 2022

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Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(4), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148
Sunninghill
2157

The proposed development of the Vaal River Solar PV Facilities, consisting of 3 PV Facilities developments and associated grid and powerline infrastructure, received Environmental Authorisation (EA) for a site near Orkney in the North West Province (see the table below) on 27 June 2012. The Environmental Authorisation for the Vaal River Solar PV Facility projects lapses on 10 October 2022. In this regard a Part 1 Amendment Application is being undertaken to extend the validity of the Environmental Authorisation. The Applicant is requesting the following Amendments for the PV: To amend the authorised solar PV capacity with no adjustment to the PV panel height and development footprint of the facility from that as authorised. Inclusion of BESS into the project description. An extension of the validity of the Environmental Authorisation. The Applicant is requesting the following Amendments for the grid connection: An extension of the validity of the Environmental Authorisation.

Savannah Environmental has been appointed by the Vaal River Solar 2 (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation (EA) Amendment Application for the extension of the Authorised Kabi Vaalkop PV 2513 (now Vaal River Solar 1, 2, & 3 PV Facilities) issued in 2012 for a further 10 year period on Portion 3 of the Farm Vaalkop and Portion 200 of the Farm Noitggedacht near Orkney, City of Matlosana Local Municipality, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, North West Province.

A Verification and Motivation Report (VMR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, no 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and the NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The scope of work entails a part one amendment application which includes a request to amend the authorised Solar PV capacity with no adjustment to the PV panel height and the development footprint of the facility from that as authorised, an extension of the validity of the Environmental Authorisation, and amendment for the grid connection as follows, inclusion of a Battery Energy Solar System (BESS) into the project description.

This application relates to the Kabi Vaalkop PV 2513 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/kabi-vaalkop-pv-2513>).



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In 2012 Coetze, F.P. and Prof. M Bamford were appointed to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Coetzee, FP. April 2012. *Cultural Heritage Survey of the Proposed Kabi Vaalkop PV Facility near Orkney, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, North West Province.*

The archaeologist conducted a background study and a site visit. The background study revealed that archaeological traces from the Early, Middle and Later Stone Age might be expected, as well as from the Early and Late Iron Age. Historically, the nearby town of Klerksdorp was settled in 1837. Several important battles were fought in the area during the South African War and four blockhouse lines converge on the area. Gold mining has taken place in the area since 1885. The site visit did not identify any Stone Age, Iron Age or Colonial Period remains and located no graves. The foundations of two square brick and cement structures (5m x 5m and 5m x 8m) were identified, but these were deemed to be less than 60 years old.

Bamford, M. May 2012. *Palaeontological Impact Assessment for Kabi Vaalkop Solar PV Facility.*

The palaeontological assessment showed that the area is located within the Malmani Subgroup of the Chuniesport Group (Transvaal Sequence), represented by dolomites and cherts that are too old to contain fossils, beyond possible unicellular algal tracefossils in the dolomite.

A Letter of Exemption has been submitted by CTS Heritage for the EA amendment process to provide heritage specialist input as part of the EIA process as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Levin, J. June 2022. *Letter of Exemption: The Extension of Validity to the EA: Vall River Solar 1, 2, 3, and 4 PV Facilities and Grid Connection Infrastructure (as amended) on a Site Near Orkney, North West Province (previously called the proposed Vaalkop Solar PV Facility).*

The specialist undertook both a desktop and field assessment of the large and project area. A site verification field inspection was undertaken by Dr. Presnyakova in June 2022 to determine if the landscape has been subject to any changes that may impact the findings outlined in Coetzee (2012), such as the exposure of new sensitive subsurface sediments/deposits that were not visible during the original survey. Dr. Presnyakova determined that no archaeologically relevant changes are evident based on the verification survey that was

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Enquiries: Elijah Dumisani Katsetse

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undertaken, and that it is unlikely that previously unidentified heritage resources will now be evident within the area proposed for development. The track path and site photographs resulting from this site verification are included as figure 1 to 12. The submitted letter makes the same conclusion for palaeontological heritage and argue that the overall palaeontological sensitivity of the development area as assessed by Bamford (2012) remains applicable. And a Chance Fossil Find Protocol is recommended for inclusion in the EMP.

In light of the above, there is no heritage objection to granting the extension to the validity to develop the Vaal River Solar PV Project 1, 2, 3, and 4 based on the current site conditions on the condition that the relevant recommendations in the previous heritage assessments concluded are implemented, including a walkdown assessment of the final layout and that the attached Chance Fossil Finds Procedure (Appendix 1) is added to the EMP.

Final Comment

The SAHRA's APM Unit has received the Verification and Motivation Report (VMR) as part of the Environmental Authorisation Amendment process, attached to the VMR is a Letter of Exemption for heritage specialist studies. SAHRA supports the recommendations made in the Letter by the specialist and has no objections to the project.

SAHRA inserts the following comments as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final VMR and EMP:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed expansion;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development;
- Both an Archaeological and Palaeontological walkdowns must be undertaken for the final layout prior to construction. A report on the outcomes of the walkdown must be submitted to SAHRA for comment, construction may not commence without feedback from SAHRA on the report.
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Elijah Katsetse/Phillip Hine 021 462 4502) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section

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51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;

- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqalabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51(1) of the NHRA;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
 - i) If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
 - The Final VMR and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
 - The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Elijah Dumisani Katsetse
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine

Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/600585>

Terms & Conditions:

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.

Savannah Public Process

From: Ria Barkhuizen (NR) <Barkhuizenr@nra.co.za>
Sent: Friday, 29 July 2022 10:21
To: Savannah Public Process
Subject: RE: SE3406: PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE VAAL RIVER SOLAR PV FACILITIES, SUBSTATION AND 132kV POWER, NEAR ORKNEY NORTH WEST PROVINCE

Good day

This email is an acknowledgement of receipt for your enquiry.

Please note that in line with requirements of Section 29 of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act No 16 of 2013) read with Section 3 of the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act (Act No 3 of 2000) SANRAL have 30 days to acknowledge receipt of your application and 90 days to evaluate and provide response.

Should you not receive any response within 120 days, kindly follow up on the enquiry by responding to Jan Oliver who will be dealing with it and will convert back to you. He can be contacted on (012) 426-6242 / Cell 081 010 6403.

Tx and Regards

Ria