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Department of Environmental Affairs  
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Zandri Hill  
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19.08.2020

**Attention:** Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GEELSTERT 1 SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR AGGENEYS, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DEFF Ref: still to be allocated).**

To whom it may concern,

This letter serves as record and confirmation of appointment of Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd as Environmental Assessment Practitioner and relevant specialist consultants for the Geelstert 1 Solar PV Facility Basic Assessment currently in process, on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2020. Importantly, this letter also serves as confirmation of the appointment and commencement of the following specialist studies for this project:

- Simon Todd and Eric Hermann of 3Foxes Biodiversity Solutions
- Gerhard Botha of Nkurenkuru Ecology & Biodiversity
- Garry Paterson of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) - Institute for Soil, Climate and Water
- Jenna Lavin of Cedar Tower Services
- Jon Marshall of Environmental Planning and Design
- Lisa Opperman of Savannah Environmental and Dr Neville Bews of Dr Neville Bews & Associates
- Amory Le Roux-Arries of Knight Piésold

This letter is supplied as proof of appointment and commissioning of the above-mentioned Basic Assessment process prior to the implementation date (09 May 2020) of the gazetted specialist protocols (GNR 320, 20 March 2020). The specialist studies have therefore been undertaken in accordance with Appendix 6 of the 2014 EIA Regulations, as amended, as per the IQ query response (reference: "IQ/20/0242: RETRACTION: IQ/20/0140: Specialist protocols query") dated 2 July 2020, and attached to this letter.

Kind regards,



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**Robert Wagener**  
Director  
Geelstert Solar Facility 1 (PTY) LTD

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**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GEELSTERT 1 SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR AGGENEYS, IN THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE (DEFF Ref: still to be allocated).**

## Lisa Opperman

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**From:** Gideon Raath  
**Sent:** Friday, July 3, 2020 11:51 AM  
**To:** Arlene Singh; Lisa Opperman  
**Subject:** FW: IQ/20/0242: RETRACTION: IQ/20/0140: Specialist protocols query  
**Attachments:** Raumix Aggregates (Pty) Ltd v Richter Sand CC and Another (Oct 2019) - P....pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

### Gideon Raath

Environmental and Permitting Consultant | Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
Tel: +27 (0)11 656 3237 | Cell: +27 (0)72 194 3644 | Fax: +27 (0)86 684 0547

*[SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant for Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015](#)*

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**From:** IQ <IQ@environment.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 02 July 2020 09:20  
**To:** Gideon Raath <gideon@savannahsa.com>  
**Cc:** EIAAdmin <EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za>; Betty Mdala <BMdala@environment.gov.za>; Alvan Gabriel <agabriel@environment.gov.za>; Dr Dee Fischer <DFischer@environment.gov.za>; Franz Scheepers <FScheepers@environment.gov.za>; Milicent Solomons <MSolomons@environment.gov.za>; Vusi Skosana <VSkosana@environment.gov.za>; Amanda Van Reenen <avanreenen@environment.gov.za>  
**Subject:** IQ/20/0242: RETRACTION: IQ/20/0140: Specialist protocols query  
**Importance:** High

Dear Gideon

Please note that, upon discussions with the Department's Directorate: Legal Support - NEMA and having taken into account the attached judgment and also having given due consideration to the effect of the national lockdown announced on 27 March 2020, the previous response to your query (IQ/20/0140, dated 21 May 2020) is herewith withdrawn.

It is the Department's view that, irrespective of whether an application has been submitted or not, before 9 May 2020 - if the specialist assessment affected by any of the protocols was commissioned before 9 May 2020, then the applicant is allowed to continue and submit documents for decision-making, which do not need to comply with the requirements of the protocols. Proof that the specialist work was outsourced before 9 May 2020, is deemed to be sufficient to allow this, on a case by case basis and you are strongly advised to liaise with the relevant competent authority in this regard.

For the DEFF, kindly contact [EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za) for further guidance.

Regards  
Chantal Engelbrecht

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**From:** IQ  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 21:08  
**To:** 'Gideon Raath' <[gideon@savannahsa.com](mailto:gideon@savannahsa.com)>  
**Cc:** EIAAdmin <[EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za](mailto:EIAAdmin@environment.gov.za)>; Betty Mdala <[BMdala@environment.gov.za](mailto:BMdala@environment.gov.za)>; Alvan Gabriel <[agabriel@environment.gov.za](mailto:agabriel@environment.gov.za)>; Dr Dee Fischer <[DFischer@environment.gov.za](mailto:DFischer@environment.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** IQ/20/0140: Specialist protocols query

Dear Gideon,

Please find highlighted in yellow the responses to your query, as provided by Mr Gabriel.

Should you have any queries regarding the implementation of GNR 320, please do not hesitate to contact Alvan Gabriel ([agabriel@environment.gov.za](mailto:agabriel@environment.gov.za)) or Dr Dee Fischer ([dfischer@environment.gov.za](mailto:dfischer@environment.gov.za))

Regards

Betty Mdala  
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
Directorate: IEA: IEM Capacity & Support  
Email: [BMdala@environment.gov.za](mailto:BMdala@environment.gov.za)  
Website: <http://www.environment.gov.za>

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**From:** Gideon Raath [<mailto:gideon@savannahsa.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 24 April 2020 12:19  
**To:** IQ <[IQ@environment.gov.za](mailto:IQ@environment.gov.za)>; Chantal Engelbrecht <[CEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za](mailto:CEngelbrecht@environment.gov.za)>; Franz Scheepers <[FScheepers@environment.gov.za](mailto:FScheepers@environment.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** Jo-Anne Thomas <[joanne@savannahsa.com](mailto:joanne@savannahsa.com)>; Karen Jodas <[karen@savannahsa.com](mailto:karen@savannahsa.com)>; Ethanne Soar <[Ethanne@savannahsa.com](mailto:Ethanne@savannahsa.com)>; Lisa Opperman <[lisa.o@savannahsa.com](mailto:lisa.o@savannahsa.com)>  
**Subject:** Specialist protocols query

Good day IQ, Chantal and Franz,

We are hoping to gain some clarity around the transitional arrangements applicable to the gazetted protocols for specialist studies (attached).:

- For processes that are ongoing, are there any transitions envisaged, or is it simply all before and all after the 50 day kick-in date that applies? The specialist assessment must meet the requirements of the protocols after 9 May 2020. On application for an EA post 9 May 2020, should these requirements not be met, an application would be incomplete and the requirements would need to be met. It is important that proponents engage with competent authorities prior to submitting these applications to ensure that proponents are proceeding appropriately.
- Secondly, at what point or step in the process is the 50 day kick in relevant to – i.e. to the date of fieldwork conducted for specialist, or the date of the application form submission, for example? From 9 May 2020 the protocols will apply - any parts which are deficient will need to be done to fulfil the requirements of the protocols.

Thanks,



**Gideon Raath**

Environmental & Permitting Consultant

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

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