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DG Paterson

8th June 2016

To whom it may concern:

Regarding the report produced by ARC regarding soils and agricultural potential for the proposed Paulputs CSP project (Report No. GW/A/2016/11), the response to the standard requirement that a detailed soil investigation be undertaken, is as follows:

The majority of solar power applications in the Paulputs area of the Northern Cape comprise some of the lowest agricultural potential that one will find anywhere in South Africa, with **very hot, dry conditions** and usually shallow, sandy soils with rock outcrops (which is the case with this application). A site visit would only confirm this situation. There might well be a soil erosion hazard regarding wind erosion, but that is mentioned in the report with a range of mitigation measures specified, and a site visit would also not add significant value to that assessment.

Where a specialist soil investigation for an environmental impact assessment is concerned, if there is any possibility of medium or high potential agricultural soils, or if there is any other specific situation that justifies a site visit, that would definitely be recommended in the report, but this is not the case for the Paulputs area.

Therefore, given the nature of the development and the shallow, low potential soils occurring in the study area, there should be no need for any site visit to supply an amendment to the above-mentioned report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DG Paterson", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

DG Paterson (*PhD, Pr. Sci. Nat.*)
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