

Appendix C4:
Organs of State Correspondence

18 November 2020

Dear Stakeholder,

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 100MW VREDE PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY & BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), AND THE 100MW RONDAVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), INCLUDING ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BOTH, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESSES

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of two separate solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities inclusive of all associated infrastructure ~13km south west of Kroonstad, in the Free State Province. The two solar PV facilities are to be known as the Vrede Solar PV Facility and the Rondavel Solar PV Facility.

Each solar PV facility will be constructed as a separate stand-alone project and is assessed through a full Scoping and EIA process. Due to the proximity of the solar PV facilities to each other, the public participation processes will be undertaken concurrently, providing the public with an opportunity to understand and comment on each of the projects. The details for the respective projects are as follows:

Project name	Affected Properties	Capacity	EIA Process
Vrede Solar PV Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Remaining extent of the farm Vrede No. 1152; » Portion 1 of the farm Uitval No. 1104. 	100MW Solar PV	Scoping/EIA
Rondavel Solar PV Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Remaining Extent of the farm Rondavel Noord No. 1475; » Remaining Extent of the farm Rondavel No. 627. 	100MW Solar PV	Scoping/EIA

Infrastructure associated with each solar PV facility will include:

- » Solar PV array comprising PV modules and mounting structures.
- » Inverters and transformers.
- » Cabling between the project components.
- » On-site facility substation to facilitate the connection between the solar PV facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- » Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- » Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- » Laydown areas.
- » Access roads, internal distribution roads and fencing around the development area.

Site-specific studies and assessments will delineate areas of potential sensitivity within the identified development areas for both the Vrede Solar PV Facility and the Rondavel Solar PV Facility. Once constraining factors have been confirmed, the layout of the solar PV facilities can be planned to minimise social and environmental impacts.

It is the Developer's intention to bid each solar PV facilities under the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated from each solar PV facilities will be sold to Eskom and fed into the national electricity grid. The development of the facilities will also assist with achieving the energy mix as set out in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA), the applicants require Environmental Authorisation (EA) from the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) in consultation with the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DEDTEA) for the development of the proposed projects. In terms of Section 24(5) of NEMA, the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended) and Listing Notices (GNR 983, GNR 984, and GNR 985 of 2014 (GNRs 325, 324 and 327, as amended 2017), the two (2) applications for the solar PV facility EAs are subject to the completion of Scoping/EIA processes. Each application is required to be supported by comprehensive, independent environmental studies undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

The proponent has appointed Savannah Environmental, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessments for the respective projects to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the projects and recommend appropriate mitigation measures in the Environmental Management Programmes (EMPrs). As part of the environmental studies, Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public involvement process being undertaken by Savannah Environmental.

You and/or the organization / company, which you represent, have been identified as a stakeholder for the proposed projects as described above. The nature and extent of the solar PV facilities and the associated infrastructure are explored in more detail in the Background Information Document (BID) which is attached to this letter and is also available for download from the Savannah Environmental public participation platform on <https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vrede-and-rondavel-pv-sef/>.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The public participation (PP) process will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of Regulations 39 to 44 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, (GNR 326). The aim of the public participation process is primarily to ensure that:

- » information containing all relevant facts in respect of the proposed project is made available to potential stakeholders and I&APs
- » participation by I&APs is facilitated in such a manner that all potential stakeholders and I&APs are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed project; and

- » comments received from potential stakeholders and I&APs are recorded and incorporated into the EIA process.

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement and gathering of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on how public consultation can be conducted as part of a EIA processes. The consultation process for these projects has been designed considering these limitations, and the implementation is in line with our public participation plan (PP Plan), as approved by the DEFF. Savannah Environmental have established an online stakeholder engagement platform, where you are invited to register your interest in the project/s, and view project documentation.

Alternative means of undertaking consultation have been designed to ensure that I&APs are afforded sufficient opportunity to raise comments on the project, predominately through our interactive web-based platform readily available and accessible to any person with interest in the project, enabling the public participation process to be undertaken in line with Regulations 41 to 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended. This online stakeholder engagement platform allows for the sharing of details regarding the project and consultation documentation, including project maps, presentations and posters regarding the project, as well as all reports available for review. The use of online tools enables stakeholders and I&APs to explore the project-specific content in their own time, and allows participation in the consultation process in a meaningful way. The online platform allows for instant feedback and comments to be submitted, in so doing saving time for the stakeholder and also giving the assurance that their comments have been submitted for inclusion in the project reporting.

The benefits of the online stakeholder engagement platform include:

- » Ability to create a dedicated project-specific online platform to enable easy access to project-related information.
- » Ability to reach a wider audience, allowing more widespread consultation for major infrastructure projects.
- » Allowing stakeholders and I&APs the opportunity to engage on a project without leaving their office or home.
- » Enabling stakeholders and I&APs to register their interest in a project (for inclusion on the project database), and automatically gaining access to comprehensive project documentation.
- » Enabling the EAP to maintain a complete database of I&APs through maintaining a record of persons accessing the online stakeholder consultation platform.
- » Enabling the EAP and stakeholders/I&APs to meet virtually.
- » Provides a resilient solution to a public consultation process.

Where I&APs do not have the applicable facilities or access to internet, provision has been made to facilitate the consultation process through limited one-on-one consultation where sanitary conditions can be maintained, as well as consulting with the Ward Councillor, the ward committee members, community representatives and local community forum members.

AVAILABILITY OF SCOPING REPORTS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), you are hereby notified that the two Scoping Reports are available for your review and comment from **Friday, 20 November 2020** until **Monday, 11 January 2021**.

The restrictions enforced in terms of Government Gazette 43096 which placed the country in a national state of disaster limiting the movement and gathering of people to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus has placed some limitations on making hard copies of the Scoping Reports available at public places such as libraries and municipal offices. The Scoping Reports are available on the Savannah Environmental online stakeholder engagement platform at <https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vrede-and-rondavel-pv-sef/> (release code: **2g4JyG**). As per our approved public participation plan submitted to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), you can also request that an electronic copy of the Scoping reports be sent to you via file transfer services such as WeTransfer or Dropbox.

Please submit your written comments on the Scoping Reports by **Monday, 11 January 2021** via our online stakeholder engagement platform (link provided above) or:

- » Telephone: 011 656 3237
- » Mobile: 060 978 8396 (including *please call me*)
- » Fax: 086 684 0547
- » Post: PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157
- » E-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

All comments can be addressed to Nicolene Venter at Savannah Environmental.

All comments received during the 30-day review and comment period will be recorded and included in the Final Scoping Reports for submission to the DEFF in line with Regulation 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended (GN R326).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the project. Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards



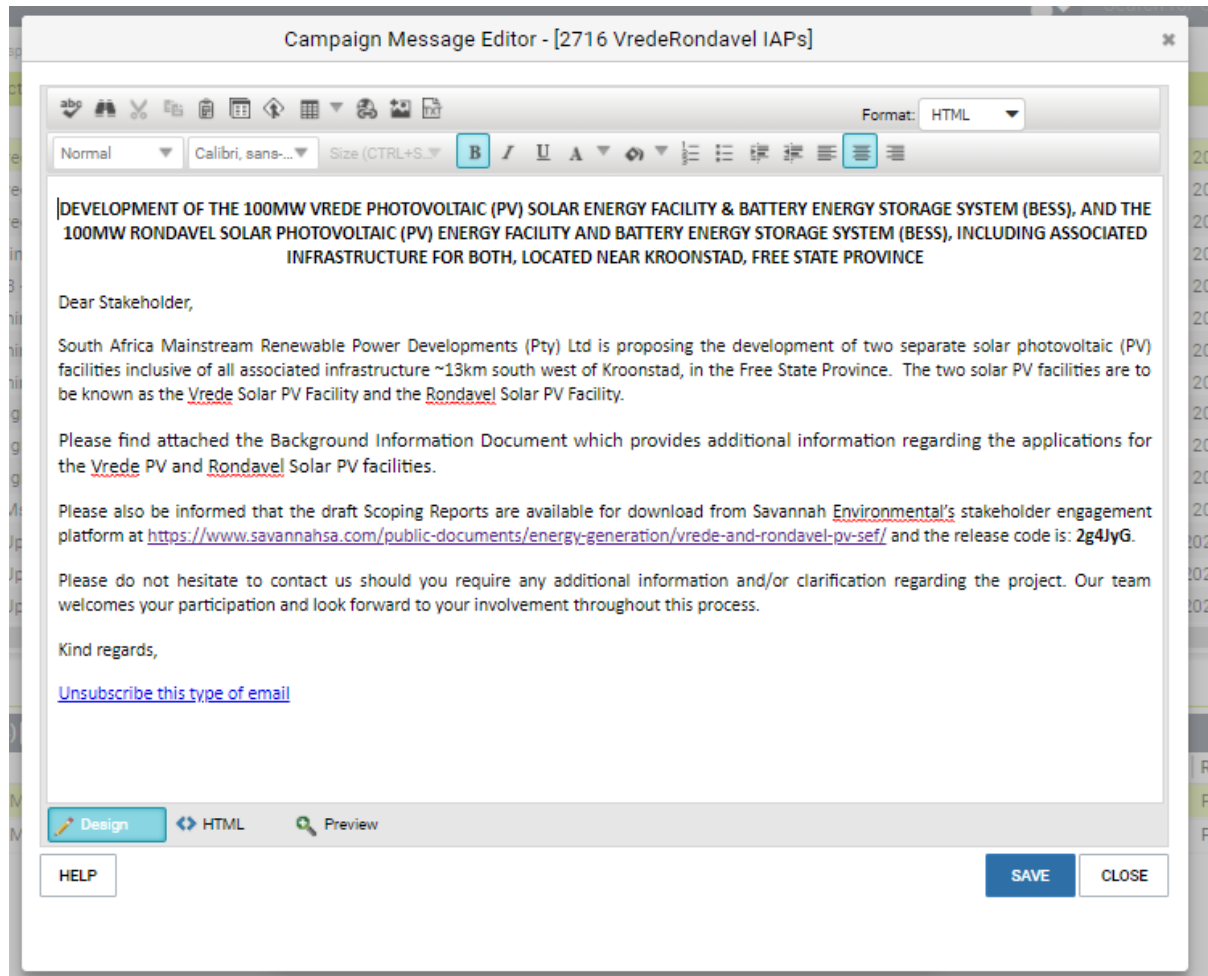
Nicolene Venter

Public Participation and Social Consultant

Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Attached: Background Information Document
Registration and Comment Form

Proof of email - VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS: Commencement of EIA & Public Participation process and notification of availability of Draft Scoping Reports





Savannah Environmental <savannahenvironmentalsa@gmail.com>

VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS: Commencement of EIA & Public Participation process and notification of availability of Draft Scoping Reports

Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Reply-To: Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
To: Mthetheleli Maphinda <mthetheleli.maphinda@energy.gov.za>
Cc: Savannah Environmental <SavannahEnvironmentalSA@gmail.com>

Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 1:50 PM

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 100MW VREDE PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY & BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), AND THE 100MW RONDAVEL SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) ENERGY FACILITY AND BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS), INCLUDING ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BOTH, LOCATED NEAR KROONSTAD, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Dear Stakeholder,

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of two separate solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities inclusive of all associated infrastructure ~13km south west of Kroonstad, in the Free State Province. The two solar PV facilities are to be known as the Vrede Solar PV Facility and the Rondavel Solar PV Facility.

Please find attached the Background Information Document which provides additional information regarding the applications for the Vrede PV and Rondavel Solar PV facilities.

Please also be informed that the draft Scoping Reports are available for download from Savannah Environmental's stakeholder engagement platform at <https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vrede-and-rondavel-pv-sef/> and the release code is: **2g4JyG**.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding the project. Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



t: 011 656 3237
f: 086 684 0547

Nicolene Venter
Public Process

e: publicprocess@savannahsa.com
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

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

4 attachments

SE2716_Vrede_Rondawel_BID.pdf
5713K

SE2716_Vrede_Rondawel_BID_(AFR).pdf
5705K

11/18/2020

Gmail - VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS: Commencement of EIA & Public Participation process and notificati...



SE2716-VredeRondavel_SEF_RegCommForm-FINAL.pdf

98K



SE2716-VredeRondavel_DSR_Notification_LetterOoS-FINAL.pdf

285K

[Print](#)

Proof of email - VREDE & RONDAVEL SOLAR PV DEVELOPMENTS: Commencement of EIA & Public Participation process and notification of availability of Draft Scoping Reports

Date:
Wednesday,
November 18,
2020
Time: 1:52
PM

Company	Last Name	First Name	
Agri Northern Cape	Jansen	Nicol	
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	M	Petunia	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	Buthelezi	Thoko	
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Mans	Jacoline	
Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform	M	Petunia	
Department of Energy	Masipa	Pheladi	
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	Lekota	Seoka	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Mahlatji	Khomotso	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Maphinda	Mthetheleli	
Department of Mineral Resources and Energy	Mutheiwana	Kevin	
Department of Rural Development and Land Reform	Makgalemele	Nozizwe	
Endangered Wildlife Trust	Hoogstad	Constant	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Maree	Hannes	
Free State Department of Police, Roads & Transportation	Naude	Willie	
Free State Provincial Heritage Resources Agency	Mbatha	Ntando	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Leie	Thekisa	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Mqwathi	Simon	
Moqhaka Local Municipality	Mqwathi	Simon	
Ngwao-Boswa Ya Kapa Bokone (NCPHRA)	Timothy	Ratha Andrew	
Northern Cape Department of Roads & Public Works	Roelofse	Jaco	
Northern Cape Dept of Agriculture, Env Affairs, Rural Dev & Land Reform	De la Fontaine	Samantha	
Northern Cape Dept of Agriculture, Env Affairs, Rural Dev & Land Reform	Fisher	Bryan	

Totals:

Savannah Environmental
Website Uploads

Vrede and Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facility

Vrede and Rondavel Photovoltaic Solar Energy Facility, Battery Energy Storage System and Associated Infrastructure, Free State Province

Applicant: South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Developments (Pty) Ltd

Proposed Activity: The development of two solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities namely, Vrede 100MW Solar PV Facility and Rondavel 100MW Solar PV Facility, including Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and associated infrastructure located at each facility. Infrastructures associated with each solar PV will include:

- Solar PV array comprising PV modules and mounting structures.
- Inverters and transformers.
- Underground cabling between the project components and overhead power lines (up to 33kV).
- On-site facility substation to facilitate the connection between the solar PV facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).
- Site offices and maintenance buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- Laydown areas and temporary man camp area.
- Access roads, internal distribution roads and fencing around the development area.
- Telecommunication infrastructure;
- Stormwater channels; and water pipelines.

Project Location: The PV solar energy facilities are located ~6km and ~11km from Kroonstad in the Moqhaka Local Municipality and within the Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Free State Province.

Vrede PV Solar Energy Facility	Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facility
Remaining Extent of the Farm Vrede No. 1152	Remaining Extent of the Farm Rondavel Noord No. 1475
Portion 1 of the Farm Uitval No. 1104	Remaining Extent of the Farm Rondavel No. 627

Vrede PV Solar Energy Facility	Rondavel PV Solar Energy Facility
Remaining Extent of the Farm Vrede No. 1152	Remaining Extent of the Farm Rondavel Noord No. 1475
Portion 1 of the Farm Uitval No. 1104	Remaining Extent of the Farm Rondavel No. 627

Application for Environmental Authorisation: Separate applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and 2014 EIA Regulations (GNR 326), as amended, are being undertaken for the projects. Each application is being supported by a separate Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process.

Scoping Reports Available for Review: The Scoping Reports and associated documentation are available for download, review and comment on the Savannah Environmental website. Visit our online stakeholder engagement platform at: <https://www.savannahsa.com/public-documents/energy-generation/vrede-and-rondavel-pv-seff/>. The 30-day review and comment period for the Scoping Reports is from **Friday, 20 November 2020** until **Monday, 11 January 2020**. The final date to submit comments is **Monday, 11 January 2020**.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to:

Nicolene Venter at Savannah Environmental

PO Box 148, Sunninghill, 2157

Tel: 011 656 3237 / Mobile: 060 978 8396

Fax: 086 684 0547

Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

Website: www.savannahsa.com

Documents for public review are available for download.

DOWNLOADS TO BE UPLOADED

SAHRIS

Website Uploads

SAHRIS UPLOADS

(to be included in final Scoping Report)