

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)/NOTIFICATION

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 100MW COMMERCIAL SOLAR ELECTRICITY GENERATION FACILITY AND ITS INFRASTRUCTURE, INCLUDING CONTAINERISED LITHIUM-ION BATTERY STORAGE AND GAS TURBINES AND ASSOCIATED FUEL STORAGE, ON THE FARM EVERTS HOPE 190, (SOVENTIX SA SALDANHA 2), NEAR LANGEBAAN, WITHIN THE SALDANHA BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information and notification to the proposed amendments to the project and to obtain comments and contributions from stakeholders with regards to potential environmental impacts – which includes, but not limited to: ecological, social, economic, physical, aesthetic, etc.

Ecoleges, as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), has been appointed by the proponent, Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd, to apply for a Part 2 amendment to the Environmental Authorisation (DEFF Ref #: 12/12/20/2126/1), in accordance with Regulations 31 of the EIA Regulations (2014) as amended, to be submitted to the relevant competent authority (National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries).

The aim of the amendment report is to undertake an assessment of all impacts related to the proposed changes, evaluate the advantages and disadvantages associated with the proposed changes, and determine measures to ensure avoidance, management and mitigation of impacts associated with the proposed changes. The process will also ensure stakeholder engagement and provide decision makers with sufficient information to make an informed decision on the proposed amendments to the current project scope.

YOUR COMMENTS WILL FORM PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Notice is given in terms of Regulation 32 and Regulation 41(2)(b) of the EIA Regulations (GN No. R. 982, 04 December 2014), and section 47D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended, and the approved Public Participation Process Plan required by the EIA Directions (GN No. 650, 5 June 2020), for a Part 2 amendment to the existing Environmental Authorisation, for the inclusion of containerized lithium-ion battery storage and gas turbines (with a combined generation capacity of <10MW with above-ground storage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and/or Diesel of less than 80m³), to the Solar Photo-Voltaic (PV) facility.

The reasons for the amendment application are as follows:

This project underwent an environmental authorisation process as part of the feasibility study and prerequisite by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) for awarding a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) under the Renewable Energy Feed in-Tariff (REFIT) program. In accordance with the Ministerial determination as gazetted on the 7th of July 2020, the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, in consultation with the National Energy Regulator of South Africa has determined that the Department is to procure 2000 MW of new generation capacity from a range of energy source technologies. The risk mitigation IPP procurement programme has been designed by the Department in order to fulfil the minister's directive. The promulgation of the IRP 2019 and associated Ministerial determinations, guide the roll out of the Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (IPPPP). The procurement of renewable energy from IPPs through renewable energy sources is required in order to meet the national commitment to transition to a low carbon economy with a target of 17 800 MW by 2030.

The Environmental Authorisation (EA) process was undertaken in accordance with the published criteria of REIPPPP Bid Window 4. However, the RFP for the risk mitigation IPP procurement programme and Bid Window 5 has additional requirements in terms of generation assurance that necessitates the inclusion of battery storage and gas turbine generation (and associated fuel storage) to ensure the facility can meet its generation mandate irrespective of prevailing weather conditions.

This will require 167MWh of Lithium-Ion battery storage, equating to twenty-two (22) forty-foot (40') containers. Each shipping container is 12.2(l) x 2.43(w) x 2.59(h) in dimensions, with a collective/total footprint of approximately 667m². Additionally, five (5) gas turbine units will be required to generate <10MW of backup electricity. Each turbine unit will take up the footprint of a 40' container. Above-ground LNG or LPG storage will be required of less than 80m³ to provide the turbines with fuel.

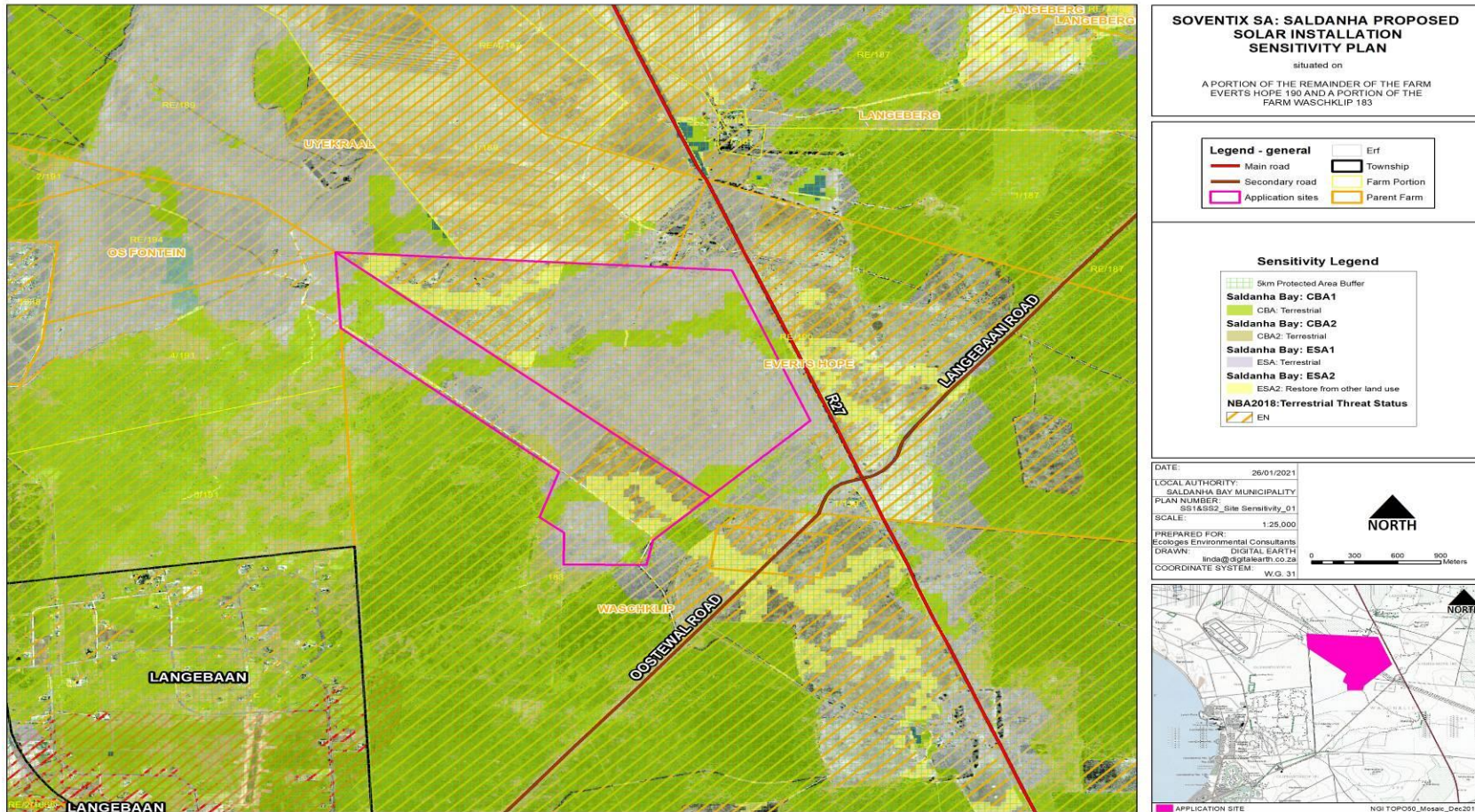


Figure 1. Location & sensitivity map of the proposed development.

OBJECTIVE OF THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

The overall objective is to undertake and complete a robust and defensible review that will serve to inform the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) and allow for a decision on the environmental acceptability of the proposed amendments.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The construction of the 100MW commercial solar electricity generation facility and its infrastructure, including containerised lithium-ion battery storage and gas turbines and associated fuel storage.

The proposed location is on the Farm Everts Hope 190, (Soventix SA Saldanha 2), near Langebaan, within the Saldanha Bay District Municipality in the Western Cape Province.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

- An advertisement will be placed in **Die Burger**, a provincial newspaper, on 29 January 2021.
- Another advertisement will be placed in the **Weslander**, a local newspaper, on 28 January 2021.
- Stakeholders, including adjacent landowners, neighbours within a 100 m radius, and the relevant authorities were notified of the proposed development in writing on 26 January 2021.
- Notice boards advertising the applications will be placed at the site, on/before 05 February 2021.
- A virtual public meeting will be held on request at a day and time convenient to the Interested and Affected Parties requesting the meeting.

ANTICIPATED ISSUES

Issues that may be addressed in the environmental assessment could include, but will not be limited to the following:

- Potential of soil contamination in the event of leaking batteries, and hydrocarbon spills from the gas turbines, should the containers be compromised and/or cannot contain the pollutant.
- Additional waste management impacts associated with recycling of depleted batteries. Battery life is expected to be in the region of 20-years. Any soil contamination event would also need to be disposed of as hazardous waste and/or bio-remediated on site.
- Air quality impacts and increased greenhouse gases emissions due to gas turbine emissions.
- Depletion of non-renewable resources i.e. LNG and/or LPG and/or Diesel.

COMMENTS PLEASE!

Your comments on the proposed amendment application, the public participation process, and issues needing investigation, will assist the authorities in their consideration of the relevant environmental and social aspects.

You are invited to register as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP) and to assist us in:

- identifying possible impacts of the proposed amendments on the environment,
- making suggestions for mitigation and/or alternatives, and
- considering the “need” and “desirability”.

Mitigations

Mitigation measures will be developed for the anticipated issues/impacts. Stakeholders are, however, welcome to comment on these issues and provide additional observations.

Alternatives

Consideration of Alternatives is one of the most critical elements of this process. Its role is to provide a framework for sound decision-making based on the principle of sustainable development. Alternatives should be identified as early as possible in the project cycle. Ecoleges welcomes stakeholders' inputs/suggestions, to submit possible reasonable and feasible alternatives for consideration.

It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a different means of meeting the same general purpose and requirements of the activity, which may include alternatives to-

- (a) the property on which or location where it is proposed to undertake the activity;
- (b) the type of activity to be undertaken;
- (c) the design or layout of the activity;
- (d) the technology to be used in the activity;
- (e) the operational aspects of the activity; and
- (f) the option of not implementing the activity.

When submitting alternatives, the recommended alternative must be:

- Practicable,
- **Feasible**,
- Relevant,
- **Reasonable**, and
- Viable.



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Need and Desirability

'Need and desirability' is determined by considering the broader societal/community needs and interests. The general meaning of need and desirability refers to time and place, respectively, i.e. is this the right time and is it the right place for locating/undertaking the proposed activity.

In order to ensure that you are registered as an interested and / or affected party, please complete the enclosed REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET and forward it to the address, fax or email provided below:

Postal Address:

P.O Box 516
Machadodorp
1170

Fax: 086 697 9316

E-mail: info@ecoleges.co.za

Cell/WhatsApp: 083 644-7179



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REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

PART 2 AMENDMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR PV FACILITY ON FARM EVERTS HOPE 190, (SOVENTIX SA SALDANHA 2), NEAR LANGEBAAN WITHIN THE SALDANHA BAY DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE.

ECOLEGES REFERENCE: 2020_006P

Title: _____ Name: _____

Surname: _____

Company Name / Interest Group: _____

*Postal or Residential Address: _____

Town/City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Tel: (_____) _____

Cell: _____

Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

A registered interested and affected party is entitled to comment, in writing, on all written submissions including draft reports made to the competent authority provided that the interested and affected party discloses any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application. Please supply such information in the space provided below:



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Please indicate with an **X** whether you would like to be kept informed of the Part 2 EA Amendment Application process.

YES, I would like to be kept informed	
NO, I am not interested	

If "YES", how would you like to be informed? (please mark the appropriate block with an "X")

E-mail	
Fax	

COMMENTS: (If you require more space than that which is provided, please attach additional pages)

Thank you for your participation

Please be assured that your comments will form part of the final document to be submitted to the decision-making authority.