



BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEM ON REMAINDER OF FARM GOEDEHOOP 26 C, PORTION 6 OF LEUWE FOUNTAIN 27 C, REMAINDER OF FARM RIET FOUNTAIN 39 C, PORTION 1 OF FARM RIET FOUNTAIN 39C, REMAINDER OF KWANSELAARS HOEK 40 C, PORTION 1 OF KWANSELAARS HOEK 40 C, PORTION 4 OF TAAIBOSCH FONTEIN 41C, PORTION 1 OF FARM KAFFERSPOORT 56C; REGISTRATION DISTRICT HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, PIXLEY KASEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to provide background information to the proposed 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.

When an applicant proposes to undertake a listed activity, an application must be made for environmental authorisation. The application must be supported by a report, which has been compiled as a result of an assessment process. After the competent authority has made a decision on the application, an appeal may be made against the decision, or parts thereof.

Ecoleges, as the independent Environmental Consultant, has been appointed by the proponent/applicant, Soventix South Africa (Pty) Ltd, to compile the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which will be reviewed by the relevant competent authority (National Department of Environmental Affairs).

The aim of the report is to ensure that the environmental impacts are taken into consideration, to ensure stakeholder engagement, and to provide decision makers with sufficient information to make an informed decision on the proposed activity.

The Departments' decision whether to grant or refuse an Environmental Authorisation (EA), will be based on information provided in the report.

YOUR COMMENTS WILL FORM PART OF THE EIA REPORT

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Notice is given in terms of Regulations 21(1) and 40 (1)(b) of GN No. R. 982, 4 December 2014, made under sections 24(5), 24 (5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended.

In terms of EIA Regulations published in Government Notice R982, R983, R984 and R985 of 4 December 2014 under Section 24 (5) of the National Environmental Management (NEMA) the application for a Solar PV system is subject to an Application for Environmental Authorisation. Government Notice R983, R984 and R985 schedules listed activities which require environmental authorisation. The proposed solar electricity generating operation triggers the following activity(s) under GNR 984 which is subject to a Scoping and EIA process:

The proposal includes the following additional potential listed activities (According to listed activities under the 2014 EIA regulations):

➤ **EIA Regulations LN 1 of 2014 (R983):**

- Listed Activity 19. "The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from-
(i) a watercourse;
(ii) the seashore; or
(iii) the littoral active zone, an estuary or a distance of 100 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea or an estuary, whichever distance is the greater but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving-
(a) will occur behind a development setback;
(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan; or
(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies".
- Listed Activity 28. "Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:
(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or
(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare; excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes".

➤ **EIA Regulations LN 2 of 2014 (R984):**

- Listed Activity 2. "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more".
- Listed Activity 9. "The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more, outside an urban area or industrial complex".

➤ OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT/PROCESS

The overall objective is to undertake and complete a robust and defensible EIA process that will serve to inform the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) and allow for a decision on the environmental acceptability of the proposed development. The proposed development involves the construction of a Solar PV System.

LOCATION

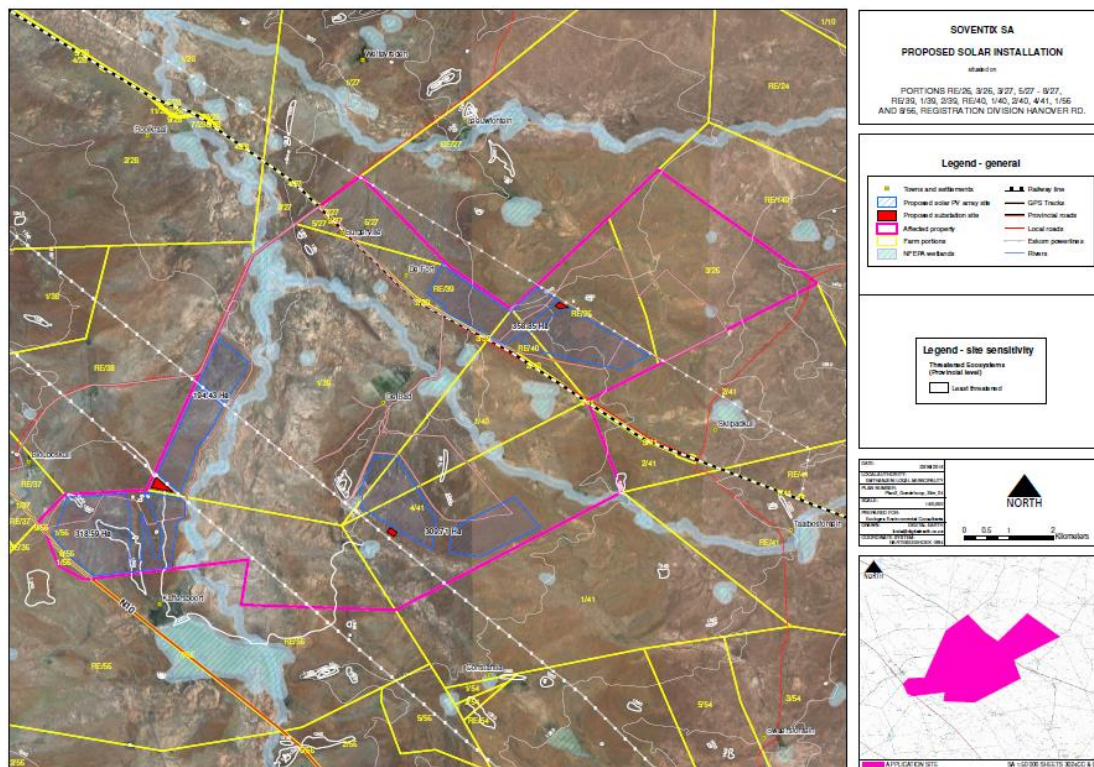


Figure 1. Location map of proposed developments.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Construction of a Solar PV System on the Remainder of Farm Goedehoop 26 C, Portion 6 of Leuwe Fountain 27 C, Remainder of Farm Riet Fountain 39 C, Portion 1 of Farm Riet Fountain 39C, Remainder of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C, Portion 1 of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C, Portion 4 of Taaibosch Fontein 41C, Portion 1 of Farm Kafferspoort 56C, registration district Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley KaSeme District Municipality; Northern Cape Province.

The proposed solar electricity generating facility intends to accommodate a photovoltaic (PV) component and associated infrastructure. The solar panels arranged in units generating capacity of 150 or 225MW to be constructed as three separate but integrated facilities of 75 MW each. An on-site sub substation per facility will be necessary to supply the electricity generated through a cut and tie in into the adjacent 400 kV Eskom network.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

- An advertisement will be placed in the **Northern Cape Express**, local newspaper, on 05 October 2016.
- Stakeholders, including adjacent landowners, neighbours within a 100 m radius, and the relevant authorities will be notified of the proposed development in writing on the 30th September 2016.
- Notice boards advertising the applications will be placed at the site.
- A Public meeting will be held at a time and place to be confirmed closer to the event.

ANTICIPATED ISSUES

Issues that may be addressed in the Scoping Report could include, but not limited to the following:

- Wetlands and/or non-perennial watercourses (including 1:100 yr floodline);
- Terrestrial Ecology (including fauna & flora);
- Visual Impact;
- Geo-technical
- Heritage
- Socio-economic
- Traffic Impact

YOU'RE COMMENTS PLEASE!

Your comments on the proposed projects, the public participation process, and issues needing investigation, will assist the technical studies and 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 developments 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. 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 the Scoping and EIA 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 not only welcomes stakeholders' input/suggestions, but also urges the public to submit possible alternatives.

It is important to note that an alternative is defined as a different means of meeting the 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.

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 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, on or before **31st October 2016**.

Postal Address:

P.O Box 9005
Nelspruit
1200

OR

P.O. Box 516
Machadodorp
1170

Fax: 086 697 9316

E-mail: justin@ecoleges.co.za

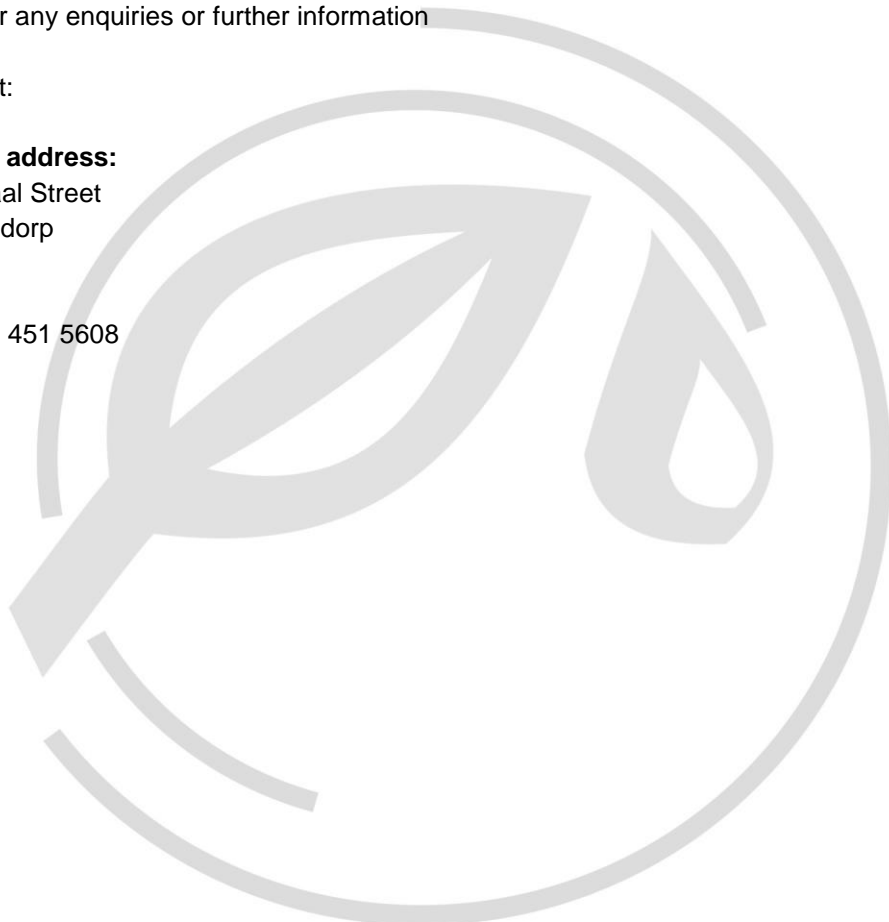
OR For any enquiries or further information

Visit us at:

Physical address:

2 Generaal Street
Machadodorp
1170

Cell: 082 451 5608



REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) APPLICATION FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLAR PV SYSTEM ON VARIOUS FARMS WITHIN THE
REGISTRATION DISTRICT OF HANOVER, EMTHANJENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY,
PIXLEY KASEME DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE. ECOLEGES
REFERENCE: 2016_004P**

Title _____ Name _____

Surname _____

Company Name / Interest Group _____

Postal or Residential Address _____

Town/City _____

Postal Code _____

Tel () _____

Cell _____

Fax () _____

E-mail address _____

In accordance with EIA Regulations, 2014 – Regulation 56 (1) - 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 - (c) 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

Please indicate with an **X** whether you would like to be kept informed of the EIA process

