

NOTIFICATION & BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (BID)



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February 18, 2022

Application for Environmental & Water Use Authorisation for the proposed development of a 300MW Solar PV Facility (Phase 2) on several portions of farms in the Hanover District, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality; Northern Cape Province

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

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

When an applicant proposes to undertake a Section 21 water use in terms of the National Water Act (NWA, Act 36 of 1998) or a Listed Activity in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act 107 of 1998) as amended, an application must be made for authorisation. The applications must be supported by a report, which has been compiled following an assessment process.

Ecoleges, as an independent Environmental Consultant, has been appointed to manage the Public Participation Process (PPP) as part of both the Water Use and Environmental Authorisation processes. Water use authorisation is proposed via registration against General Authorisation (GA) for sections 21 (a), (b), (c), (g) & (i) water uses as per Government Notices No. 509 and 538 of 26 August 2016 and 26 March 2016, respectively, as well as Government Notice No. 169 of 03 March 2013, in terms of Section 39 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) or applied for in terms of the Water Use License Application and Appeals Regulations (GN No. R.267, 24 March 2017), as applicable. The Environmental Authorisation is to be undertaken via a Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment process in accordance with Regulations 21 to 24 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 promulgated in terms of section 24(5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998), as amended. While the General Authorisation process is not governed by any formal

PPP, a potential Water Use License and Environmental Authorisation process must be undertaken in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GG No. 40772, GN No. 326, 07 April 2017) and section 47D of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) as amended and Regulation 17 of the Water Use License Application and Appeals Regulations (GN No. R.267, 24 March 2017), taking into consideration the Public Participation 2017 Guideline Document (DEA, 2017).

Section 21 water uses will be registered under the relevant General Authorisations or applied for in terms of the Water Use License Application and Appeals Regulations (GN No. R.267, 24 March 2017), as applicable through the Responsible Authority (Department of Water & Sanitation: Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency) and the S&EIR will be submitted for consideration to the National Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) or the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (NCDEA).

BACKGROUND

In 2016 ecoleges undertook a S&EIA for the development of a 225 MW Solar PV facility between Hanover and De Aar in the Northern Cape. Three alternative footprints (PV01, PV02, PV03) were investigated during the assessment process. The central footprint (PV02) was identified as the preferred option because of its lower environmental impact and proximity to an existing 400kV Eskom powerline when compared with PV01 and PV03. The National Department of Environmental Affairs granted an environmental authorisation (DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/998) on 16th April 2018. The activity must commence on the PV02 footprint within a period of five years from the date of issue.

An amendment to increase the capacity (not the footprint) of the facility to 300 MW due to technological advancements in solar photovoltaic efficiency and electrical output was granted on 24th November 2020.

A second amendment was granted in 2021 for the inclusion of containerised lithium-ion battery Storage and dual-fuel backup generators with associated fuel storage.

The competent authority was the National Department of Environmental Affairs because the application was part of the REIPPP or RMIPPP BID rounds, which formed part of a Strategic Infrastructure Project (SIP) as described in the National Development Plan, 2011. Soventix SA (Pty) Ltd was an unsuccessful bidder. However, the applicant has since partnered with another company, Solar Africa, with 1.5 GW in private renewable energy offtake agreements, making it economically feasible to develop two more 300 and 400 MW facilities (Phases 2 and 3, respectively).

Soventix will therefore apply for an environmental authorisation to develop an additional 300MW on the PV03 footprint (Phase 2) that was considered during the initial S&EIA. It is proposed to connect this second phase to the substation that forms part of the authorised facility on PV02.

The additional Solar PV facility will feed into the authorised sub-station on the PV02 footprint (Phase 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Solar PV System

A single PV device is known as a cell. To boost the power output of PV cells, they are connected in chains to form larger units known as modules or panels. Each module is 2.2 by 1.1 m (or 2,42 m²) in size. Modules are connected to form arrays and mounted on to a rack that points the panels toward the sun. The results of the geotechnical assessment will

determine whether the racks and panels are held in place by either a ballast or piled foundation. Two rows of twenty-three modules each will be attached to a steel and aluminium rack. Consequently, each rack would accommodate approximately 110 m² of panel. Solar arrays will be orientated in a northern direction and track the sun from east (55°) to west (-55°). The arrays shall be placed approximately 7.4 m apart. Several arrays are then connected to an inverter. The inverters convert the voltage from direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). Inverters at the end of panel mounting structures are cabled to field transformers. The field transformers then transfer and increase (step up) the voltage of the alternating-current circuit to Eskom's electrical grid via an onsite substation.

The size of the proposed development footprint for a 400 MW solar PV facility is approximately 400 ha (1.25 ha per MW). As far as possible, arrays will be arranged in three 100 MW blocks of approximately 125 ha each. There will be five inverters per MW (500 inverters per 100 MW block, or 1500 inverters for 300 MW). Twenty-five inverters are connected to a field transformer, so there will be twenty field transformers per 100MW (or 60 field transformers for 300 MW).

All three 100 MW blocks will feed into an on-site substation. This on-site substation will then be linked to the on-site substation on Phase 1 via overhead (approximately 20 m high) distribution lines (most likely to be a 33kV connection) along a 32 m wide servitude.

Operational Area

The operational area comprises a controlled access, single-storey building, unpaved parking, and a sewerage treatment plant. The building shall be constructed from brick with metal sheet roofing and include space for an office, ablutions (incl. change rooms), medical room, control room, kitchen, storeroom, and workshop.

Services (Water, Domestic Wastewater, Electricity and Waste)

There are several existing boreholes on site, which will be used to abstract groundwater for construction and operational phases. The abstracted water shall be stored in aboveground JoJo type storage tanks. The tanks shall be located near the single storey building in the operational area.

A maximum of 2 kL of domestic wastewater, including sewerage, shall be generated each day, and treated to special limits with a bio-box package plant.

Electricity during construction and operation will be obtained from Eskom via the existing supply to the site.

General waste will be disposed of at the De Aar licensed landfill site. Electrical waste will be either recycled or disposed of at a licensed hazardous waste landfill.

Roads

Existing roads will be upgraded, and new roads will be built, that is graded, shaped for runoff, and compacted to access the laydown area, construction camp, and components of the PV system, including the operational area, the on-site substation and to each field transformer. Passing lanes will be placed at strategic areas. Precast box culverts or pipes will also be required where the access roads pass through a drainage line. Some road crossings may need to be widened to accommodate large delivery trucks.

Two-track access roads (4.4 to 4.5 m wide) will be constructed between the parallel arrays, and a 4 to 5 m wide fire break road, comprising a jeep track with cleared vegetation, will also be created inside the perimeter fence.

Fencing

The facility will be fenced off with a 2.5 m high wire mesh security fence or Clear View™ fencing, with controlled access using a security gate. Both areas (separated by a watercourse) will be fenced off within one perimeter fence.

Lighting

The facility will not be lit up at night. The fence line will be secured using multiple FLIR PTZ cameras which have a 2km range in absolute darkness. The obvious areas that would have lights is the control and security office, as well as the on-site substation, which is a legal requirement.

Access

The main access is off the N10 between De Aar & Hanover, which enters the site from the west. The provincial unsurfaced road (Burgersville Road) and the existing farm access road will also be utilised.

Timing

The second phase will be built sequentially. There may be some overlap in that once civil works are complete the civils' team would move onto phase 2. Even each 100MW block within each phase will be built sequentially, e.g., the first phase of 300MW would be built in 3 x 100MW blocks. This will limit the amount of people on site, as well as mitigate the need for massive amounts of equipment, storage etc.

Agricultural Activities

The current land use is sheep farming, which will continue within the solar PV facility to ensure minimal losses on agricultural potential of the land as well as control vegetation growth.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Water Use

An application for Water Use Authorisation in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) will be submitted to the Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS): Orange Proto Catchment Management Agency for:

| Water Uses as defined in Section 21 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) | |
|---|---|
| Section 21(a) | taking of water; |
| Section 21(b) | storing of water |
| Section 21(c) | impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse. |
| Section 21(i) | altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse. |
| Section 21(g) | disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource |

Environmental Authorisation

An Environmental Authorisation is required for the development of the Solar PV Plant as per the following Listed Activities through a Scoping & Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) process:

| Listing Notice 1 (GN No. 983, 4 December 2014) as amended | |
|---|---|
| Listed Activity 11 | The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— |

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| | <p>(i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or</p> <p>(ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;</p> <p>excluding the development of bypass infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity where such bypass infrastructure is—</p> <p>(a) temporarily required to allow for maintenance of existing infrastructure;</p> <p>(b) 2 kilometres or shorter in length;</p> <p>(c) within an existing transmission line servitude; and</p> <p>(d) will be removed within 18 months of the commencement of development.</p> |
| Listed Activity 19 | <p>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 10 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 10 cubic metres from a watercourse;</p> <p>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving—</p> <p>(a) will occur behind a development setback;</p> <p>(b) is for maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan;</p> <p>(c) falls within the ambit of activity 21 in this Notice, in which case that activity applies;</p> <p>(d) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour; or</p> <p>(e) where such development is related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies.</p> |
| Listed Activity 28 | <p>Residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional developments where such land was used for agriculture, game farming, equestrian purposes or afforestation on or after 01 April 1998 and where such development:</p> <p>(i) will occur inside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 5 hectares; or</p> <p>(ii) will occur outside an urban area, where the total land to be developed is bigger than 1 hectare;</p> <p>excluding where such land has already been developed for residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional purposes.</p> |
| Listed Activity 48 | <p>The expansion of –</p> <p>(i) infrastructure or structures where the physical footprint is expanded by 100 square metres or more; or</p> <p>(ii) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area, is expanded by 100 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such expansion occurs-</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>excluding -</p> <p>(aa) the expansion of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour;</p> <p>(bb) where such expansion activities are related to the development of a port or harbour, in which case activity 26 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 applies;</p> <p>(cc) activities listed in activity 14 in Listing Notice 2 of 2014 or activity 14 in Listing Notice 3 of 2014, in which case that activity applies;</p> <p>(dd) where such expansion occurs within an urban area; or</p> <p>(ee) where such expansion occurs within existing roads, road reserves or railway line reserves.</p> |
| <p>Listing Notice 2 (GN No. 984, 4 December 2014) as amended</p> | |
| Listed Activity 2 | <p>The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more, excluding where such development of facilities or infrastructure is for photovoltaic installations and occurs —</p> <p>(a) within an urban area; or</p> <p>(b) on existing infrastructure.</p> |
| Listed Activity 15 | <p>The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation, excluding where such clearance of indigenous vegetation is required for—</p> <p>(i) the undertaking of a linear activity; or</p> <p>(ii) maintenance purposes undertaken in accordance with a maintenance management plan.</p> |
| <p>Listing Notice 3 (GN No. 985, 4 December 2014) as amended</p> | |
| Listed Activity 14 | <p>The development of –</p> <p>(i) dams or weirs, where the dam or weir, including infrastructure and water surface area exceeds 10 square metres; or</p> <p>(ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more;</p> <p>where such development occurs -</p> <p>(a) within a watercourse;</p> <p>(b) in front of a development setback; or</p> <p>(c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse;</p> <p>excluding the development of infrastructure or structures within existing ports or harbours that will not increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.</p> <p>g. Northern Cape</p> <p>i. In an estuary;</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| | <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas; no</p> <p>(cc) World Heritage Sites;</p> <p>(dd) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(ee) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention; as above</p> <p>(ff) Critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(gg) Core areas in biosphere reserves;</p> <p>(hh) Areas within 10 kilometres from national parks or world heritage sites or 5 kilometres from any other protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA or from the core area of a biosphere reserve;</p> <p>(ii) Areas seawards of the development setback line or within 1 kilometre from the high-water mark of the sea if no such development setback line is determined.</p> |
| <p>Listed Activity 18</p> | <p>The widening of a road by more than 4 metres, or the lengthening of a road by more than 1 kilometre.</p> <p>g. Northern Cape</p> <p>i. In an estuary;</p> <p>ii. Outside urban areas:</p> <p>(aa) A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</p> <p>(bb) National Protected Area Expansion Strategy Focus areas;</p> <p>(cc) Sensitive areas as identified in an environmental management framework as contemplated in chapter 5 of the Act and as adopted by the competent authority;</p> <p>(dd) Sites or areas identified in terms of an international convention;</p> <p>(ee) Critical biodiversity areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans;</p> <p>(ff) Core areas in biosphere reserves</p> |

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The overall objective is to undertake and complete a robust and defensible WUA and S&EIA process that will serve to inform the DWS and DFFE or NCDEA's decision on the acceptability of the proposed project.

LOCATION

The proposed location is on Portion 3 & Remainder of Farm Goedehoop 26 C, Portion 6 of Leuwe Fountain 27 C, the Remainder of Farm Riet Fountain 39 C, Portion 1, 6 & Remainder of Kwanselaars Hoek 40 C and Portion 4 of Taaibosch Fontein 41 C, registration district Hanover, Emthanjeni Local Municipality, Pixley Ka Seme District Municipality, Northern Cape Province.

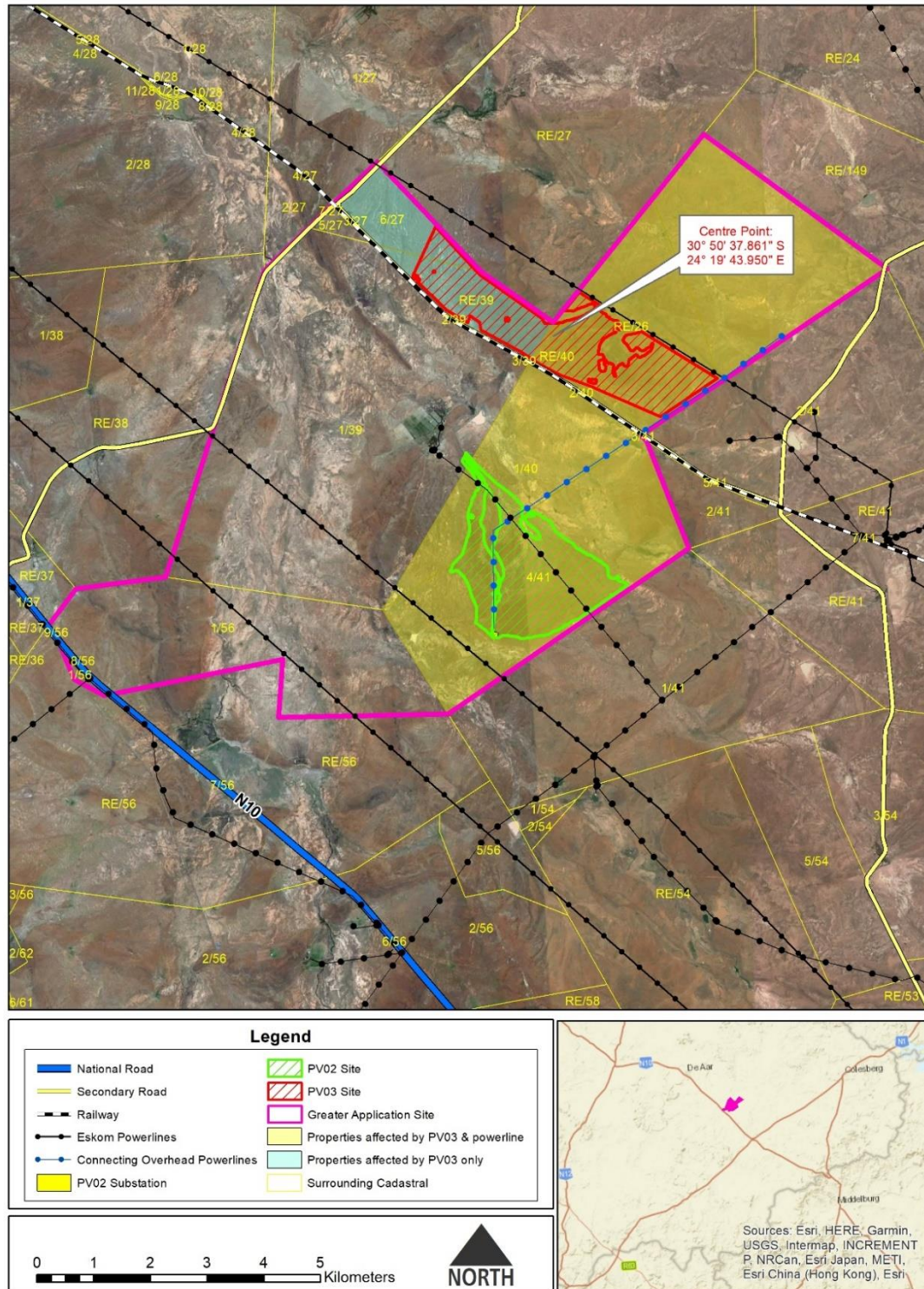


Figure 1: Location map of proposed development in relation to already approved Phase 1 development.

DESCRIPTION OF TASKS

- An advertisement will be placed in the Volksblad and Noordkaap Bulletin Newspapers,

- Stakeholders, including landowners and land occupiers of neighbouring properties, other interested & affected parties, including the relevant authorities; will be notified of the proposed development in writing, and
- Notice boards advertising the applications have been placed in and around the site.
- Additional public participation processes may be undertaken in light of COVID-19 and prevailing Disaster Management Act Regulations to help ensure thorough dissemination & access of information to I&APs.

ANTICIPATED ISSUES

Environmental issues that may be addressed in the reports could include the following:

- Agricultural Agro-Ecosystem Assessment
- Visual Impact Assessment;
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- Palaeontology Impact Assessment;
- Terrestrial Biodiversity Impact Assessment (incl. an Animal and Plant Species Assessment – Ecological Study).
- Terrestrial ecology (including fauna & flora);
- Avian Impact Assessment;
- Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment;
- Geotechnical Assessment;
- Social Impact Assessment;
- Bat Impact Assessment;
- Traffic Impact Assessment;
- Hydrology Assessment.

YOUR 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 development 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.

NEMA and the EIA Regulations call for a hierarchical approach to impact management.

The Impact Mitigation Hierarchy

- *Firstly*, alternatives must be investigated to avoid negative impacts altogether.
- *Secondly*, after it has been found that the negative impacts cannot be avoided, alternatives must be investigated to reduce (mitigate and manage) unavoidable negative impacts to acceptable limits.
- *Thirdly*, alternatives must be investigated to remediate (rehabilitate and restore).
- *Fourthly*, unavoidable impact that remain after mitigation and remediation must be compensated for through investigating options to offset the negative impacts.
- While *throughout*, alternatives must be investigated to optimise positive impact.

Alternatives

Consideration of “Alternatives” is one element of the 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 & Desirability

According to Regulation 13(1)(b) and 13(1)(e) read together with Regulation 18 of the amended EIA Regulations, 2014, EAPs and specialists must have knowledge of any guidelines that have relevance to the proposed activity and have regard to the need for and desirability of the undertaking of the proposed activity.

Considering that ‘Need and Desirability’ is determined by considering the broader societal/community needs and public interests, that is NOT the needs of the applicant/developer, we encourage you to also consider the Guideline on Need and Desirability published by DEA (2017) to help you identify key issues in respect of the need for and desirability of undertaking the proposed activity/development. The guideline is freely available on the web. However, we have also prepared a YouTube video that explains the intended concept of Need and Desirability (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0iHr-zE4TPzwhZjzoTPQMw>).

The aim of EIA process is to find that (reasonable and feasible) alternative that will ensure sustainable development. Consistent with the aforesaid aim and purpose of EIA, the concept of “need and desirability” relates to, amongst others, the nature, scale and location of development being proposed, as well as the wise use of land.

Strictly speaking, “need” primarily refers to time and “desirability” refers to place, e.g. is this the right time and is it the right place for locating the type of land-use/activity being proposed? However, “need and desirability” are interrelated and the two components collectively can be considered in an integrated and holistic manner by engaging the **Questions** provided in the guideline document. The questions are divided into two broad categories relating to

ecological sustainability (e.g. how the development will impact on ecosystems and biological diversity) and justifiable economic and social development.

We suspect the ecological category of questions address desirability and whether it is the right place, while the economic and social category of questions addresses broader societal needs, and whether this is the right time.

Need and desirability is like a drawstring that pulls the assessment process together to decide on the best option. When the sum of the impacts (evaluated during the impact assessment) is considered holistically through the lens of Need and Desirability, that is by presenting them within the framework of questions posed by the guideline, then Need and Desirability becomes the overall impact summary to determine if the proposed activity is the best option or to decide on the fate of the application.

When collectively considering ecological, social and economic impacts it is important to remember that while there might be some trade-offs between the considerations, all development must in terms of Section 24 of the Constitution be ecologically sustainable, while economic and social development must be justifiable. Consequently, there are specific “trade-off rules that apply, namely environmental integrity may never be compromised, and the social and economic development must take a certain form and meet certain specific objectives for it to be considered justifiable.

REGISTRATION

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 or justin@ecoleges.co.za

ENQUIRIES

Please do not hesitate to visit us at our office or give us a call should you have any further queries or concerns regarding the listed activity(ies) or development that is being proposed.

Physical address (Office):

3 Generaal Street
Machadodorp
1170

Cell: 083 644-7179 (office) or 082 451 5608 (Justin Bowers)

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

Please complete and return the below Registration and Comment Sheet and/or POPIA Consent Form at your earliest convenience:

- **Written comments or objections relating to the application for a water use authorisation must be lodged within 60 days of this notice, no later than 22nd April 2022.**

Note: To withdraw your consent at any time please email us directly, and we will immediately delete your information from our records. Thank you.

REGISTRATION AND COMMENT SHEET
PHASE 2 DE AAR 300MW SOLAR PLANT
ECOLEGES REFERENCE: 2022_001P

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 object and 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 WUA & S&EIA 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 | |

POPIA CONSENT FORM

Kindly be advised that should you receive unsolicited correspondence directly from us, and you are (i) an occupier, owner or person in control of the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (ii) an owner, person in control or occupier of land adjacent to the site or any alternative site where the activity is to be undertaken, (iii) the municipal councillor of a ward, (iv) any organisation of ratepayers that represents the community, (v) a municipality, (vi) any organ of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the activity, or (vii) any other party as required by the competent authority, then we were required to give you notice in terms of EIA Regulation 41(2), and had to therefore derive your information, including name, contact details and address, from a public record. Alternatively, you may have been referred to us. If you are not an organ of state, did not submit written comments or attend meetings, did not request in writing for your name to be placed on the register, then we are not obligated in terms of EIA Regulation 42 to retain a record of your personal information in a register of interested and affected parties, and as such, must obtain proof of consent provided by yourself. To this effect, kindly confirm your consent by ticking the boxes below.

- I, in my capacity as the data subject, give consent to ecoleges, in its capacity as the responsible party, to process my personal information for purposes of pursuing its legitimate interests or those of a third party to whom the information is supplied, but limited to (1) the submission of reports or plans for comment, (2) transferring the same information to a third party, including registered interested and affected parties, the competent authority and applicant or holder of the environmental authorisation, (3) submitting a copy of an appeal against a decision to grant or refuse environmental authorisation, and/or (4) submission of environmental audit reports (containing recommendations for amending the EMPr) for comment.
- I hereby acknowledge that only the minimum personal information that is required to be processed for the purpose of the EIA Regulations (2014) will be processed, including my name, contact details, address, and disclosure on any direct business, financial, personal, or other interest which that party may have in the approval or refusal of the application.
- I hereby confirm that the personal information, which I shall provide is mine, and that it is complete, accurate, not misleading and updated.
- I hereby acknowledge that my personal information is being collected explicitly for public participation processes associated with this project.
- Irrespective of the decision to grant or refuse an environmental authorisation, and irrespective of whether the scope of the authorisation includes operational or development aspects only, I hereby give consent to ecoleges to retain my records indefinitely for historical and/or research purposes.
- I understand, upon submitting my personal information to ecoleges, that it will be saved on their server, which meets the various conditional "Minimum Security Requirements" of their Cyber Insurance company, including *inter alia* firewalls to restrict access to digitally stored sensitive information, anti-virus software implemented on all desktops, laptops and sensitive systems, password controls implemented on sensitive systems, etc.
- I understand that ecoleges shall inform me when there are reasonable grounds to believe that my personal information has been accessed or acquired by any unauthorised person.
- I have read and understand my [Section 5 Rights](#) as a data subject including *inter alia*, the right to -
- request access to my personal information,
 - request information about the identity of all third parties,
 - request ecoleges to correct, update, destroy or delete my personal information, and
 - lodge a complaint in writing to the [Information Regulator](#) if in my opinion the processing of information is not reasonable.

For more information about the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (POPIA), which commenced on 01st July 2020, it is available at the following link: www.popia.co.za

Your participation in the Public Participation Process (PPP) is voluntary, but it is mandatory in terms of Regulation 42 and 43(1) of the amended EIA Regulations (2014) that we receive the relevant personal information for us to register you as an Interested and Affected Party, and for you to be entitled to comment, in writing, on all reports or plans that we submit to you, respectively.

Failure to supply the information or incomplete information may impact your eligibility as a registered Interested and Affect Party.