OMGEWINGSIMPAKEVALUERINGSPROSES

JULIE 2010

AGTERGRONDINLIGTINGSDOKUMENT

REISA

VOORGESTELDE OPRIGTING VAN DIE
KATHU SONKRAGAANLEG
NOORD-KAAPPROVINSIE

'N INISIATIEF VAN
RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS SUID-AFRIKA

&

VOORGESTELDE OPRIGTING VAN DIE
SISHEN SONKRAGAANLEG
NOORD-KAAPPROVINSIE

'N INISIATIEF VAN VENTUSA ENERGY

VENTUSA
ENERGY

Savannah
ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD

SUSTAINABLE
FUTURES ZA

Renewable Energy Investments Suid-Afrika (Edms.) Bpk., "REISA", stel voor die oprigting van 'n kommersiële sonkragaanleg vir die opwekking van elektrisiteit en gepaardgaande infrastruktuur op Gedeelte 4 van die plaas Wincanton 472 wat suidoos van Kathu in die Noord-Kaapprovinsie geleë is. 'n Tweede aanleg word voorgestel deur VentuSA Energy (Edms.) Bpk. op die aangrensende eiendom, Gedeelte 6 van die plaas Wincanton 472. Hierdie terreine is sowat 16 km suidoos van Kathu en sowat 23 km suidoos van Sishen geleë.

Die aanleg wat deur REISA voorgestel word, staan as die Kathu Sonkragaanleg bekend, en die aanleg wat deur VentuSA Energy voorgestel word, heet die Sishen Sonkragaanleg.

Savannah Environmental is aangestel om die Omgewingsimpakevalueringsproses vir beide hierdie voorgestelde kommersiële sonkragaanlegte vir die opwekking van elektrisiteit te onderneem. Hoewel die terreine langs mekaar geleë is, is daar twee afsonderlike projekontwikkelaars (of applikante). 'n Afsonderlike OIE-verwysings-nommer is aan elk van die voorgestelde projekte toegeken. Aangesien die aanlegte langs mekaar geleë is, word die aard en omvang van elk van die voorgestelde aanlegte van naderby in hierdie Agtergrondinligtingsdokument ondersoek, en aspekte van die openbare deelnameproses vir die twee projekte sal vir die duur van die Omgewings-impakevalueringsproses gekombineer word.

DOEL VAN HIERDIE AGTERGRONDINLIGTINGSDOKUMENT

Hierdie dokument poog om u, as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP), te voorsien van:

» 'n oorsig van die twee voorgestelde sonkragaanlegte;

» 'n oorsig van die OIE-proses vir beide projekte (wat 'n Bestekopname- en 'n OIE-fase insluit), asook van die spesialisstudies wat onderneem word ten einde die potensiële omgewingsimpakte betreffende die voorgestelde projekte te evalueer; en

» besonderhede van hoe u by die OIE-proses vir enige van die twee projekte betrokke kan raak, inligting kan ontvang of vraagstukke kan opper wat u dalk kan raak en/of vir u van belang kan wees.

OORSIG VAN DIE VOORGESTELDE PROJEK

Die Kathu Sonkragaanleg word voorgestel op Gedeelte 4 van die plaas Wincanton 472, met die Sishen Sonkragaanleg wat voorgestel word op Gedeelte 6 van dieselfde plaas. Hierdie terreine is in die Gamagara Plaaslike Munisipale distrik. Hierdie terrein word as gunstig geag vir die ontwikkeling van kommersiële sonkragaanlegte vir die opwekking van elektrisiteit en wel danksy klimaatstoestande (hoofsaaklik omdat die ekonomiese lewensvatbaarheid van 'n sonkragaanleg direk afhang van die jaarlikse direkte sonbestralingswaardes vir 'n spesifieke gebied), orografiese toestande, reliëf en aspek, die omvang van die terrein en die beskikbaarheid van 'n roosterkonneksie (d.i. die punt van konneksie met die nasionale elektrisiteitsnet). Die twee geïdentifiseerde terreine is beskikbaar vir ontwikkeling, beskik oor direkte padtoegang via die R380 en lê buite die Sishen myngebied aan die suide van die terreine.

Daar word voorgestel dat elke aanleg verskeie reekse fotovoltaïese (FV) panele en/of konsentrerende fotovoltaïese (KFV) panele insluit, wat elk van die aanlegte 'n voorgestelde opwekkingsvermoë van sowat 60 MW sal gee. Daarbenewens word aan die hand gedoen dat elke aanleg die volgende gepaardgaande infrastruktuur sal insluit:

» 'n Generatortransformator op die terrein en 'n klein substasie om die konneksie tussen die sonkragaanleg en Eskom se kragnet te bewerkstellig;

- 'n oorhoofse kraglyn (±26 km lank) wat by die bestaande Ferrum Substasie by Eskom se kragnet invoer (om deur albei aanlegte gebruik te word);
- interne toegangspaaie; en
- 'n werkswinkelgebied vir instandhouding en berging.

Die geïdentifiseerde terreine is sowat 7 km^2 in omvang. Die terrein is groter as die spasie wat benodig word vir die ontwikkelingsvoetspoor op elk van die terreine. Daarom kan die FV-panele en die gepaardgaande infrastruktuur behoorlik binne die grense van elk van die twee terreine gespasieer word, met inagneming van geïdentifiseerde omgewingsbeperkings.

Oorweging word tans geskenk aan vraagstukke op plaaslike vlak binne die terrein-spesifieke studies as deel van die Omgewingsimpakevalueringsprosesse vir die voorgestelde ontwikkelingsterreine ten einde gebiede van sensitiwiteit in die breër terreine aan te dui. Sodra die beperkende omgewingsfaktore vasgestel is, kan die uitleg van die voorgestelde aanlegte afgehandel en in detail in die OIE-fase geëvalueer word.

SONKRAGAANLEGTE

Die aanwending van sonbestraling vir die opwekking van elektrisiteit word as 'n nie-verbruikende benutting van 'n natuurlike hulpbron geag, wat geen kweekhuisgasse vrystel nie. Die opwekking van hernubare energie sal bydra tot Suid-Afrika se elektrisiteitsmark wat, tot op hede, grootliks oorheers is deur kragopwekking wat van steenkool gebruik maak. Die bevordering van hernubare energie is vir Suid-Afrika 'n prioriteit aangesien die regering 'n 10-jaar teiken van 10 000 GWh teen 2013 gestel het as deel van die Witskrif oor Hernubare Energie. Verder lê onlangse beleidsrigtings klem op die wenslikheid van skoon, groen energie, en krag wat deur die son opgewek word, sal 'n wesenlike rol speel om hierdie kwotas te behaal.

Sonkragaanlegte, soos dié wat FV-tegnologie aanwend, maak gebruik van die energie van die son om elektrisiteit op te wek deur 'n proses wat as die Fotovoltaïese Effek bekend staan. Eenvoudig gestel, verwys dit na ligfotone wat elektrone na 'n hoër energietoestand stamp om elektrisiteit op te wek.

FV-aanlegte bestaan uit die volgende komponente:

Die Fotovoltaïese Sel

'n Fotovoltaïese (FV) sel word van silikon gemaak wat as halfgeleier optree wat aangewend word om die fotovoltaïese effek voort te bring. Individuele FV-selle word aanmekaar geskakel en agter 'n beskermende glaspaneel geplaas om 'n fotovoltaïese paneel te vorm.

Optika

Konsentrerende FV-tegnologie bestaan tipies uit verskillende optiese elemente, soos spieëls en Fresnel-lense, wat gebruik word om sonbestraling op 'n punt te konsentreer waar 'n FV-sel geplaas is. Deur die sonbestraling te konsentreer, word die potensiaal vir elektrisiteitopwekking gemaksimaliseer.

Die Wisselrigter

Die fotovoltaïese effek produseer elektrisiteit in gelykstroom, daarom moet 'n wisselrigter gebruik word om dit in wisselstroom om te sit.

Die Steunstruktuur

Die FV-panele sal op 'n steunstruktuur, wat teen 'n hoek staan, aangebring word ten einde die maksimum hoeveelheid sonbestraling te ontvang. Die hoek van die paneel hang af van die breedteligging van die voorgestelde aanleg en die hoeke kan verstel word ten einde die kenmerke van somer- en wintersonbestraling te optimaliseer.

Die FV-panele is ontwerp om vir ongeveer 20 jaar ononderbroke, onbeman en met min instandhouding in bedryf te wees. Elke aanleg, wat uit verskeie FV-reekse met 'n opwekkingsvermoë van 60 MW sal bestaan, sal 12 maande of meer neem om op te rig en in bedryf te stel, en sal die kundigheid van vaardige personeel verg.

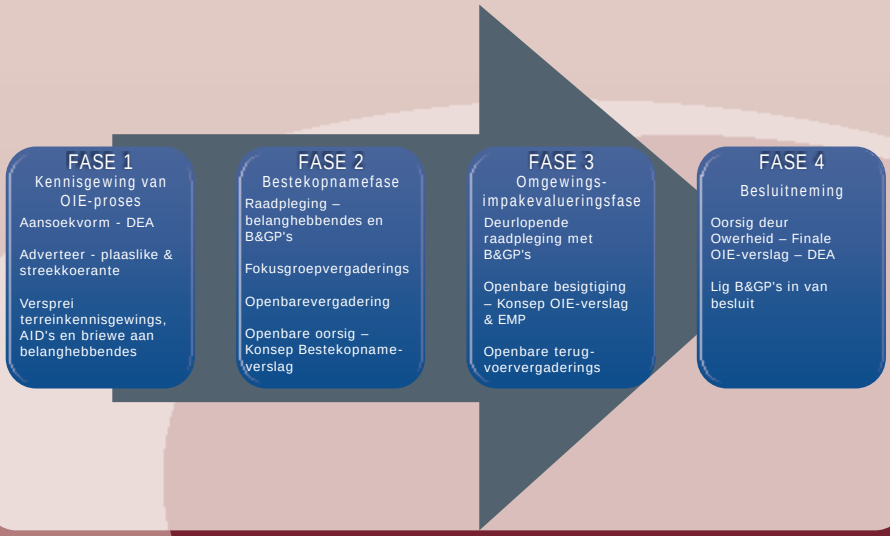
OMGEWINGSIMPAKEVALUERINGSPROSES

Ingevolge die OIE-regulasies wat kragtens Artikel 24(5) van die Nasionale Wet op Omgewingsbestuur (NEMA, Wet 107 van 1998) gepubliseer is, verlang REISA en VentuSA Energy magtiging van die Nasionale Departement Omgewingsake (DEA) (in oorleg met die Noord-Kaapse Departement Omgewingsake en Natuurbewaring (DENC)) vir die onderneming van die voorgestelde projekte. Hierdie projekte is by die DEA geregistreer onder aansoekverwysingsnommer 12/12/20/1858 (Kathu-aanleg) en 12/12/20/1860 (Sishen-aanleg).

Ingevolge Artikel 24 en 24D van NEMA, saamgelees met die OIE-regulasies van Staatskennisgewing R385 (Regulasie 27-36), R386 en R387 word verlang dat 'n Bestekopname- en 'n OIE-fase vir beide van die voorgestelde projekte onderneem word. Ten einde magtiging te verkry, moet omvattende, onafhanklike omgewingstudies ingevolge die OIE-regulasies onderneem word.

'n OIE is 'n doeltreffende beplannings- en besluitnemingswerktuig. Dit bring mee dat die potensiële omgewingsverwante gevolge wat voortspruit uit 'n voorgestelde aktiwiteit, geïdentifiseer en na behore bestuur word tydens die oprigting en bedryf daarvan. Dit bied die applikant die geleentheid om vooraf gewaarsku te wees teen potensiële omgewingsvraagstukke en bied die geleentheid om die vraagstuk(ke) waaroor verslag gedoen word in die OIE-verslag, asook uit dialoog met B&GP's, op te los.

Die openbare betrokkenheid in die fases van 'n OIE behels:



Savannah Environmental is aangestel as onafhanklike omgewingskonsultante om die verlangde OIE-proses te onderneem wat vir beide van die voorgestelde projekte verlang word. Tydens hierdie prosesse sal die potensiële omgewingsimpakte wat met die voorgestelde projekte gepaardgaan, geïdentifiseer en geëvalueer word. Daarna sal gepaste versagtende en bestuursmaatreëls in 'n Omgewingsbestuursplan (EMP) voorgestel word. As deel van hierdie omgewingstudies, sal B&GP's aktief betrokke raak deur die openbare deelnameproses wat deur Sustainable Futures ZA onderneem word. Die openbare deelnameproses vir albei hierdie projekte sal gelyktydig onderneem word.

WAT IS DIE POTENSIËLE OMGEWINGSIMPAKTE WAT MET DIE VOORGESTELDE PROJEK GEPAARDGAAN?

'Die oprigting en bedryf van die voorgestelde aanlegte het die potensiaal om beide 'n positiewe en negatiewe impak op die omgewing te hê. 'n Aantal potensiële omgewingsimpakte wat gepaardgaan met die voorgestelde projekte is geïdentifiseer.

Hierdie potensiële impakte sal deur die volgende spesialisstudies geëvalueer word:

Biofisise

Ekologie, fauna en flora
Die oprigting van die sonkragaanlegte en die gepaardgaande versteuring van plantegroei kan 'n impak op die terreine se ekologie hê.

Landboupotensiaal
Impakte op die potensiaal van landbougebiede en op die vermoë van die grond.

Geologie
Impakte wat met geologie gepaardgaan, kan verband hou met die terreine se onderliggende grondtoestande en erosiepotensiaal.

Maatskaplike

Visueel
Die oprigting van die FV-panele en die gepaardgaande infrastruktuur kan 'n impak op die estetiese gehalte van die landskap tydens die oprigting- en bedryfsfase hê.

Erfenisterreine
Die versteuring of vernietiging van erfenisterreine kan tydens die oprigtingsfase voorkom.

Maatskaplik
Die oprigting- en bedryfsfase kan beide positiewe en negatiewe impakte hê deur werkgeleenthede en 'n impak op plaaslike grondgebruik.

Spesialisstudies sal onderneem word om hierdie potensiële impakte te identifiseer en te evalueer en sal in die volgende twee fases onderneem word.

1. n Kantoor (desktop) Bestekopnamestudie, waartydens potensiële vraagstukke wat met die voorgestelde projek gepaardgaan, geïdentifiseer sal word en daardie vraagstukke wat verdere ondersoek deur die OIE-fase verg, uitgelig sal word.

2. n Gedetailleerde OIE-fase vir die evaluering van potensieel wesenlike impakte wat tydens die Bestekopnamefase geïdentifiseer is. Praktiese en uitvoerbare versagtende maatreëls sal aanbeveel word ten einde potensieel wesenlike impakte wat geïdentifiseer is, te verminder. Hierdie aanbevelings sal in 'n Konsep EMP vervat word.

Spesialisstudies sal toegelig word deur bestaande inligting, veldwaarnemings en insette wat uit die openbare deelnameproses voortspruit. As 'n B&GP, word u insette as 'n belangrike deel van hierdie proses geag, en ons moedig u aan om betrokke te raak.

OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSES

Die deel van inligting vorm die grondslag van die openbare deelnameproses en bied u die geleentheid om uit die staanspoor aktief by die OIE betrokke te raak. Kommentaar en insette van B&GP's tydens die Bestekopname- en die OIE-fase vir beide projekte word aangemoedig ten einde te verseker dat oorweging geskenk word aan potensiële impakte binne die omvang van die studie.

Die openbare deelnameproses poog om te verseker dat:

» inligting wat al die tersaaklike feite met betrekking tot beide die projekte bevat, aan B&GP's beskikbaar gestel word vir oorsig.

» deelname deur B&GP's op so 'n wyse gefasiliteer word dat hulle 'n redelike geleentheid gegun word om kommentaar te lewer oor die voorgestelde projekte.

» toereikende besigtigingstydperke aan B&GP's gebied word om kommentaar te lewer oor die bevindinge van die Konsep Bestekopname- en OIE-verslag.

Ten einde doeltreffende deelname te verseker, sluit die openbare deelnameproses, wat gelyklopend vir beide projekte sal wees, die volgende fases in:

U VERANTWOORDELIKHEDE AS 'N B&GP

Ingevolge die OIE-regulasies, word u aandag gevestig op u verantwoordelikhede as 'n B&GP:

» Ten einde aan hierdie twee OIE-prosesse deel te neem, moet u uself op die projekte se databasisse registreer.
» U moet toesien dat enige kommentaar rakende die voorgestelde projekte binne die gestipuleerde tydraamwerke ingedien word.
» Daar word van u verlang om enige regstreekse sake-, finansiële-, persoonlike- of ander belange wat u dalk mag hê in die goedkeuring of afkeuring van die aansoek vir die voorgestelde sonkragaanlegte, bekend te maak.

HOE OM BETROKKE TE RAAK

1. Deur te reageer, hetsy telefonies, per faks of per e-pos, op die uitnodiging vir u betrokkenheid wat in plaaslike en nasionale koerante geadverteer is. (Let daarop dat die tersaaklike OIE-verwysingsnommer op u korrespondensie aangebring moet wees.)
2. Deur die aangehegte Antwoordvorm/s aan die tersaaklike kontakpersoon terug te besorg.
3. Deur die vergaderings by te woon wat gedurende die verloop van die OIE-proses gehou sal word. As 'n geregistreerde B&GP sal u outomaties uitgenooi word om hierdie vergaderings by te woon. Datums vir openbare vergaderings sal ook in plaaslike en streekkoerante geadverteer word.
4. Deur die konsultante te kontak met navrae of kommentaar.
5. Deur oorsig en kommentaar te bied oor die Konsep Bestekopname- en OIE-verslag, en wel binne die gestipuleerde 30-dae besigtigingstydperke.

Indien u uself as B&GP vir hierdie voorgestelde projekte ag, moedig ons u aan om gebruik te maak van die geleenthede wat geskep word deur die openbare deelnameproses om kommentaar te lewer of daardie vraagstukke of knelpunte te opper wat u raak en/of waarin u belangstel of waaroor u meer inligting verlang. U insette in hierdie proses vorm 'n belangrike deel van die OIE-proses.

Deur die meegaande Antwoordvorm/s te voltooi en in te dien, registreer u uself outomaties as 'n B&GP vir hierdie projek/te en verseker u dat kennis geneem word van u kommentaar, knelpunte of navrae wat betreffende die projekte geopper word.

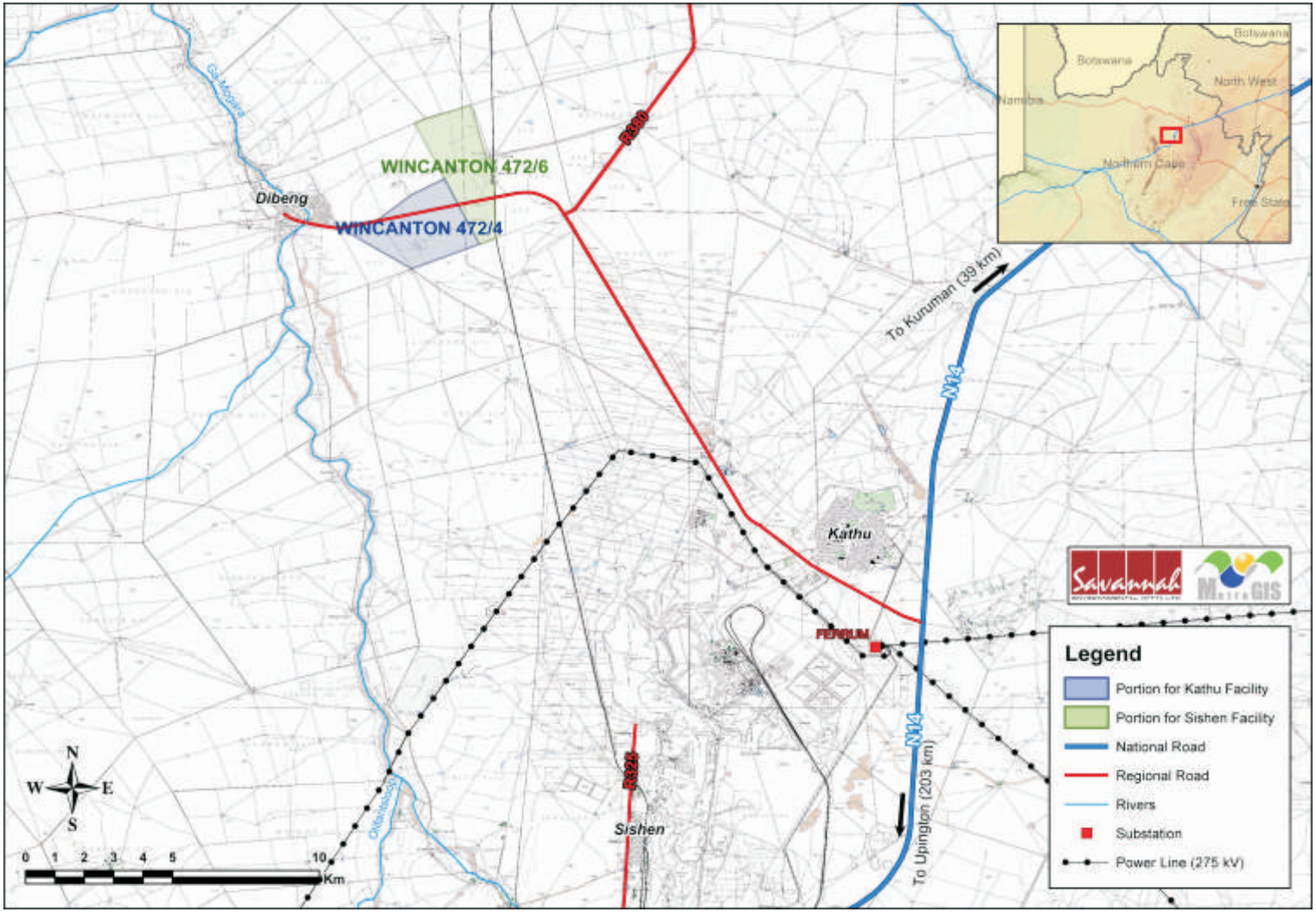
KOMMENTAAR EN NAVRAE

Rig alle kommentaar, navrae of antwoorde aan:

Shawn Johnston van Sustainable Futures ZA
Posbus 749, Rondebosch, KAAPSTAD, 7701
Telefoon: 083 325 9965
Faks: 086 510 2537
E-pos: swjohnston@mweb.co.za

Vir dokumentasie wat met die projek gepaardgaan, besoek

www.savannahSA.com


WINCANTON 472/6
WINCANTON 472/4
Dibeng
R380
Gu Mogara
To Kuruman (39 km)
N14
Kathu
FERRUM
Sishen
R325
Olifantshoek
To Upington (203 km)
Botswana
Namibia
North West
Northern Cape
Free State
Savannah
Legend
Portion for Kathu Facility
Portion for Sishen Facility
National Road
Regional Road
Rivers
Substation
Power Line (275 kV)
N
W
E
S
0 1 2 3 4 5 10
Km

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

JULY 2010

BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

REISA

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED

KATHU SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

NORTHERN CAPE

AN INITIATIVE OF

RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS SOUTH AFRICA

&

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED

SISHEN SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY

NORTHERN CAPE

AN INITIATIVE OF VENTUSA ENERGY

VENTUSA ENERGY

Savannah ENVIRONMENTAL (PTY) LTD

SUSTAINABLE FUTURES ZA

Renewable Energy Investments South Africa (Pty) Ltd 'REISA' is proposing the establishment of a commercial solar electricity generating facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 4 of the Farm Wincanton 472 located south-east of Kathu in the Northern Cape. A second facility is proposed by VentuSA Energy (Pty) Ltd on the adjacent property, Portion 6 of the Farm Wincanton 472. These sites are located approximately 16 km south-east of Kathu and approximately 23 km south-east of Sishen.

The facility proposed by REISA is known as the Kathu Solar Energy Facility and the facility proposed by VentuSA Energy is known the Sishen Solar Energy Facility.

Savannah Environmental has been appointed to conduct the Environmental Impact Assessment Processes for both of the proposed commercial solar electricity generating facilities. Although the sites are adjacent to one another, there are two different project developers (or applicants). The proposed projects have each been issued with their own EIA reference number. Due to their proximity, the nature and extent of each of the proposed facilities is explored in more detail in this Background Information Document, and elements of the public participation process for the two project will be combined over the duration of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process.

AIM OF THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

This document aims to provide you, as an interested and/or affected party (I&AP), with:

- An overview of the two proposed solar energy facilities.
- An overview of the EIA process (including a Scoping Phase and an EIA Phase) for each project and the specialist studies being undertaken to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed projects.
- Details of how you can become involved in the EIA process for either project, receive information, or raise issues which may concern and/or interest you.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

The Kathu Solar Energy Facility is proposed on Portion 4 of the Farm Wincanton 472, with the Sishen Solar Energy Facility proposed on Portion 6 of the same farm. These sites fall within the Gamagara Local Municipality. This area is considered favourable for the development of commercial solar electricity generating facilities by virtue of the climatic conditions (primarily as the economic viability of a solar energy facility is directly dependent on the annual direct solar irradiation values for a particular area), orographic conditions, relief and aspect, the extent of the site, and the availability of a grid connection (i.e. the point of connection to the National grid). The two identified sites are available for development, have direct road access via the R380, and lie outside of the Sishen mine area located to the south of the sites.

Each facility is proposed to include several arrays of photovoltaic (PV) panels and/or concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) panels, giving each facility a proposed generating capacity of approximately 60 MW. Furthermore, each facility is proposed to include the following associated infrastructure:

- An on-site generator transformer and a small substation to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- An overhead power line (±26 km in length) feeding into the Eskom electricity network at the existing Ferrum Substation (to be used by both facilities).

» Internal access roads.

» Workshop area for maintenance and storage.

The identified sites are each approximately 7 km^2 in extent. The area is larger than the space required for the development footprint on each site. Therefore, the PV panels and the associated infrastructure can be appropriately placed within the boundaries of each of the two sites, taking identified environmental constraints into consideration.

Local level issues are currently being considered within site-specific studies as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment processes for the proposed development sites in order to delineate areas of sensitivity within the broader sites. Once any constraining environmental factors have been determined, the layout of the proposed facilities can be finalised, and assessed in detail in the EIA Phase.

SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES

The use of solar radiation for power generation is considered a non-consumptive use of a natural resource which produces zero greenhouse gas emissions. The generation of renewable energy will contribute to South Africa's electricity market which has, to date, been heavily dominated by coal-based power generation. The advancement of renewable energy is a priority for South Africa as the government has set a 10-year target of 10 000 GWh by 2013, as part of its White Paper on Renewable Energy. Furthermore, recent policy highlights the desirability of clean; green energy and solar generated energy will play a significant role in reaching these quotas.

Solar energy facilities, such as those using PV technology use the energy from the sun to generate electricity through a process known as the Photovoltaic Effect. Simply speaking, this refers to photons of light knocking electrons into a higher state of energy to create electricity.

PV facilities consist of the following components:

The Photovoltaic Cell

A photovoltaic (PV) cell is made of silicone which acts as a semiconductor used to produce the photovoltaic effect. Individual PV cells are linked and placed behind a protective glass sheet to form a photovoltaic panel.

Optics

Concentrating PV technology typically consists of different optical elements, such as mirrors and Fresnel lenses which are used to concentrate solar radiation onto a point where a PV cell is located. Concentrating the solar radiation serves to maximise the potential electricity generation.

The Inverter

The photovoltaic effect produces electricity in direct current. Therefore an inverter must be used to change it to alternating current.

The Support Structure

The PV panels will be fixed to a support structure set at an angle so to receive the maximum amount of solar radiation. The angle of the panel is dependent on the latitude of the proposed facility and the angles may be adjusted to optimise for summer or winter solar radiation characteristics.

The PV panels are designed to operate continuously, unattended and with low maintenance for approximately 20 years. Each facility which would consist of several PV arrays with a generating capacity of 60 MW will take 12 months or more to construct and commission, and would require the expertise of skilled staff.

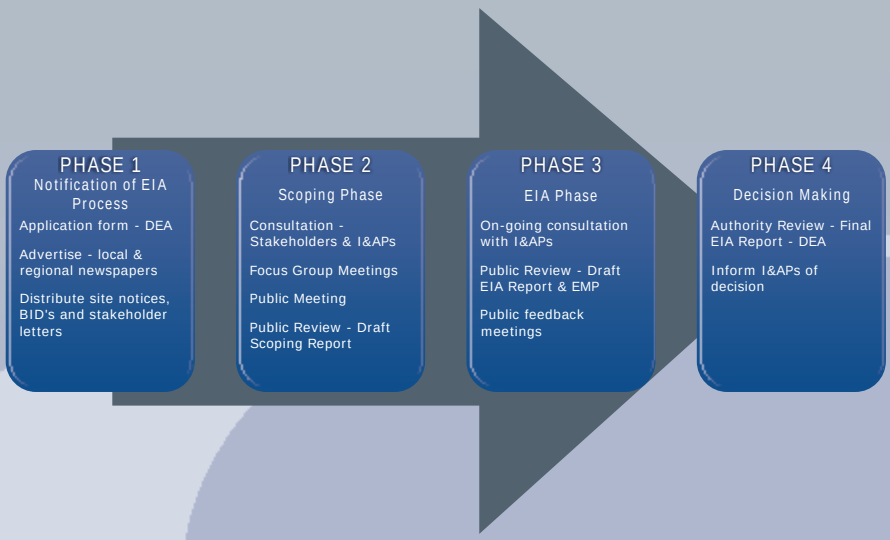
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), both REISA and VentuSA Energy require authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (in consultation with the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC)), for the undertaking of the proposed projects. These projects have been registered with the DEA under application reference numbers 12/12/20/1858 (Kathu facility) and 12/12/20/1860 (Sishen facility).

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of NEMA, as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R385 (Regulations 27 - 36), R386 and R387, a Scoping Phase and an EIA Phase are required to be undertaken for both of the proposed projects. In order to obtain authorisation, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

An EIA is an effective planning and decision-making tool. It allows the potential environmental consequences resulting from a proposed activity to be identified and appropriately managed during its establishment and its operation. It provides the opportunity for the applicant to be fore-warned of potential environmental issues, and allows for resolution of the issue(s) reported on in the EIA report as well as dialogue with I&APs.

The public involvement within the phases of an EIA include:



Savannah Environmental has been appointed, as the independent environmental consultant, to undertake the required EIA process which is required for both of the proposed projects. During these processes the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed projects will be identified and assessed. Thereafter appropriate mitigation and management measures will be proposed in an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). As part of these environmental studies, I&APs will be actively involved through the public participation process being undertaken by Sustainable Futures ZA. The public participation process for both projects will be undertaken simultaneously.

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

The construction and operation of the proposed facility has the potential to impact on the environment in both a positive and negative manner. A number of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project have been identified.

These potential impacts will be assessed through the following specialist studies:

Biophysical

Ecology, fauna & flora
The construction of the solar energy facility and the associated disturbance of the vegetation may impact on the ecology of the site.

Agricultural potential
Impacts on the potential of agricultural areas and on the land capacity.

Geological
Impacts associated with the geology may relate to the underlying soil conditions and erosion potential of the site.

Social

Visual
The establishment of the PV panels and the associated infrastructure may impact on the aesthetic quality of the landscape during the construction and operational phases.

Heritage sties
Disturbance to or destruction of heritage sites may result during the construction phase.

Social impacts
The construction and operational phases may lead to both positive and negative impacts through employment opportunities and impacts on land use.

Specialist studies will be undertaken to identify and assess these potential impacts and will be undertaken in two phases:

1. A desk-top Scoping Phase Study, wherein potential issues associated with the proposed project are identified and those issues requiring further investigation through the EIA Phase are highlighted.

2. A detailed EIA Phase Assessment of potentially significant impacts identified in the Scoping Phase. Practical and achievable mitigation measures will be recommended in order to minimise potentially significant impacts identified. These recommendations will be included within a Draft EMP.

Specialist studies will be informed by existing information, field observations and input from the public participation process. As an I&AP, your input is considered an important part of this process, and we urge you to become involved.

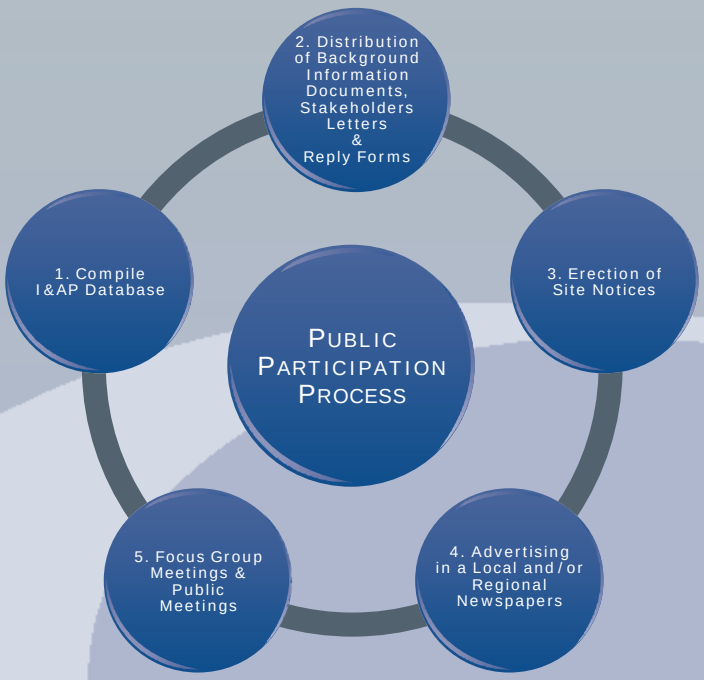
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The sharing of information forms the basis of the public participation process and offers you the opportunity to become actively involved in the EIA from the outset. Comments and inputs from I&APs during the Scoping and the EIA Phases for both projects are encouraged in order to ensure that potential impacts are considered within the ambit of the study.

The public participation process aims to ensure that:

» Information that contains all the relevant facts in respect of each of the projects is made available to I&APs for review.
» I&AP participation is facilitated in such a manner that they are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed projects.
» Adequate review periods are provided for I&APs to comment on the findings of the draft Scoping and EIA Reports.

In order to ensure effective participation, the public participation process, which will be run concurrently for both projects, includes the following phases:



YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN I&AP

In terms of the EIA Regulations, your attention is drawn to your responsibilities as an I&AP:

» In order to participate in this EIA process, you must register yourself on the project database.
» You must ensure that any comments regarding the proposed project are submitted within the stipulated timeframes.
» You are required to disclose any direct business, financial, personal or other interest which that you may have in the approval or refusal of the application for the proposed solar energy facility.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

1. By responding by phone, fax or e-mail to the invitation for your involvement which has been advertised in local and national newspapers.
2. By returning the attached Reply Form to the relevant contact person.
3. By attending the meetings to be held during the course of the project. As a registered I&AP you will automatically be invited to attend these meetings. Dates for public meetings will also be advertised in local and regional newspapers.
4. By contacting the consultants with queries or comments.
5. By reviewing and commenting on the Draft Scoping and EIA Reports within the stipulated 30-day review periods.

If you consider yourself an I&AP for this proposed project, we urge you to make use of the opportunities created by the public participation process to provide comment, raise issues and concerns which affect and/or interest you or request further information. Your input into this process forms a key element of the EIA process.

By completing and submitting the accompanying Reply Form, you automatically register yourself as an I&AP for this project, and are ensured that your comments, concerns or queries raised regarding the project will be noted.

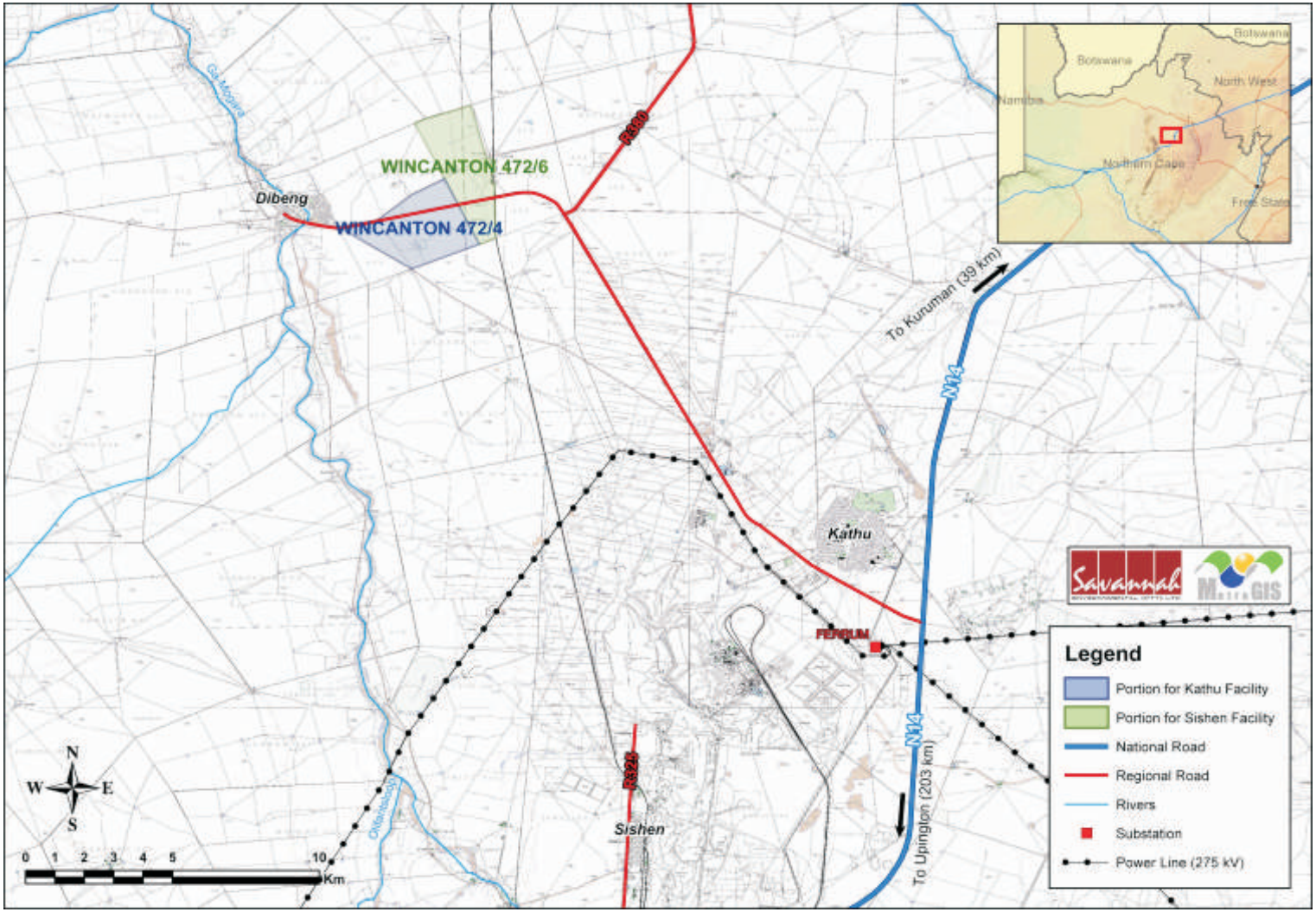
COMMENTS AND QUERIES

Direct all comments, queries or responses to:

Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA
PO Box 749, Rondebosch, CAPE TOWN, 7701
Phone: 083 325 9965
Fax: 086 510 2537
E-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za

To view project documentation, visit

www.savannahSA.com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WINCANTON 472/4
Dibeng
R380
Gu Mogara
To Kuruman (39 km)
N14
Kathu
FERRUM
Sishen
R325
Olifantshoek
To Upington (203 km)
Botswana
Namibia
North West
Northern Cape
Free State
Savannah
Legend
Portion for Kathu Facility
Portion for Sishen Facility
National Road
Regional Road
Rivers
Substation
Power Line (275 kV)
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