

Oryx Solar Power Plant Project: Comments and Response Report (Appendix C7)

Comments received prior to the release of the Draft Scoping Report and during the initial Public Participation 30-day comment period

Organisation	Person	Issue or comment raised (see Appendix C5 & C6 of the Draft Scoping report)	Addressing or incorporation of issue or comment
South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)	Sityhilelo Ngcatsha	<p>In a letter, dated 22 April 2022, an interim comment was submitted by SAHRA for the project. The content of the comment is included below:</p> <p>Thank you for notifying the SAHRA on the proposed development of a Photo Voltaic (PV) solar facilities and associated grid connections (power lines) on Portion 2 of the Farm Kalkoenkrans 225 in Theunissen, within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State Province.</p> <p>The project entails the generation of up to 150MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 252 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site) that is located within the larger 311 hectares assessed.</p> <p>The proposed development is undergoing an EA Application process in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 107 of 1998 (NEMA) and NEMA Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) will be done as per section 38(3) and 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). This must include all other applicable heritage components.</p>	<p>The requirements of SAHRA for the proposed Oryx Solar Power Plant is noted.</p> <p>A Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment, which are in line with all requirements and guidelines, has been undertaken for the project and included as part of the draft Scoping Report that has been made available for the 30-day review and comment period. Refer to Appendices E5 and E6 of the draft Scoping Report.</p> <p>The Palaeontological Impact Assessment includes a field survey as required.</p> <p>Where sites or structures related to heritage, archaeology and palaeontology have been identified specific mitigation measures have been recommended by the independent specialists and included in the draft Scoping Report. Recommendations for the placement of infrastructure and the layout, considering the identified sites or structures, have been recommended by the respective specialists.</p> <p>The draft Scoping Report and appendices have been uploaded to the SAHRIS case file at the</p>

		<p>The archaeological component of the HIA should follow the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological Component of Impact Assessment Report. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component would be to contract a qualified archaeologist (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za).</p> <p>The proposed development area is located mostly within an area of moderate and very high sensitivity in terms of palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. As such, a field based Palaeontological Impact Assessment (PIA) must be undertaken by a qualified palaeontologist (See https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html for a list of qualified palaeontologists). The report must comply with the 2012 Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.</p> <p>The NEMA EIA documents and appendices must be submitted at the start of the public review periods in order for an informed comment to be issued that can be incorporated into the final reports for submission to the competent authority.</p>	commencement of the 30-day review and comment period.
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<p>Commission on Restitution of Land Rights</p>	<p>Geraldine Booysen & L. Bogatsu</p>	<p>In a letter to the Applicant, dated 05 May 2022, the following feedback was received from the Office of the Regional Land Claims Commissioner: Free State. The content of the letter is as follows:</p> <p>Land Claims Enquiry:</p> <p>REMAINING EXTENT OF PORTION 2 OF FARM KALKOENKRANS NO. 225, DISTRICT THEUNISSEN, PROVINCE FREE STATE</p> <p>We refer to your letter dated 25 April 2022.</p> <p>We confirm that as at the date of this letter no land claims appear on our database in respect of the Property. This includes the database for claims lodged by 31 December 1998; and those lodged between 1 July 2014 and 27 July 2016 in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act, 2014.</p> <p>Whilst the Commission takes reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the information it provides, there are various factors that are beyond the Commission's control, particularly relating to claims that have been lodged but not yet gazetted such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some Claimants referred to properties they claim dispossession of rights in land against using historical property descriptions which may not match the current property description; and 2. Some Claimants provide the geographic descriptions of the land they claim without mentioning the particular actual 	<p>It is noted that no land claim currently exists for the affected property. No further response required.</p>
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<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE): Biodiversity Directorate</p>	<p>Biodiversity Conservation, Mainstreaming (Admin)</p>	<p>In an email, dated 04 April 2022, the following correspondence was received from the Department on the Notification of the EIA process:</p> <p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation would like to register as the I&AP for the mentioned project. Kindly notify and email us the link containing the report as soon as it becomes available.</p> <p>Please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr. Seoka Lekota</p>	<p>Environamics acknowledged the email on 04 April 2022 and confirmed that the DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation is a registered I&AP for the Oryx Solar Power Plant. It was advised that notification will be submitted to the Department once the report(s) are available for the 30-day review and comment periods, including the necessary details of where the report can be accessed.</p> <p>Furthermore, the process for submission of all Public Participation Process documents was noted.</p>
<p>Telkom</p>	<p>Lehlohonolo Roesto</p>	<p>In an email, dated 05 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process:</p>	<p>Environamics acknowledged the email on 06 April 2022.</p> <p>No further response required.</p>

Mvelaphanda Wayleave Office		This is an acknowledgement mail, your ref for the application in ORYX is OVIG0180-22 for further enquiries.	
Renergen	Pieter Holtzhausen, Gerhard Muller, Khalid Patel	<p>In an email, dated 04 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process from Renergen:</p> <p>Will you kindly forward me the shapefiles/ kml of the proposed infrastructure for the PV project?</p>	<p>In an email dated 04 April 2022, Environamics responded to indicate that the Scoping phase is only commencing, and that the layout of the project is not available as yet.</p> <p>It was also indicated that the final details of the layout will only be available during the EIA Phase.</p> <p>Also, it was indicated that Environamics would only be able to distribute a layout map of the infrastructure once available and not spatial files.</p>
		<p>In an email, dated 04 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process from Renergen:</p> <p>Thanks for your response. In that case we will wait for more details during the EIA phase. With regards to the spatial data, is there a specific reason that you will not be able to provide us with the information?</p> <p>We are currently undertaking construction activities and have further planned activities on Portion 2 of Kalkoenkrans. To that regard it is important for us to overlay your spatial data onto ours for further comment. For now, I will only require a footprint of the area under consideration.</p>	<p>In an email dated 04 April 2022, Environamics responded to indicate that it is at the developer's discretion to distribute the finer details of the layout.</p> <p>It was however indicated that Environamics should be able to share the development footprint area in due course.</p> <p>Environamics requested any details that could be shared for the planned project by Renergen, such as project name, layout maps etc. Also, with construction already commencing, it was</p>

			<p>assumed that the project is already authorised. Confirmation was requested in this regard.</p> <p>It was also requested whether an EIA process commenced as yet for the project proposed by Renergen.</p>
		<p>In an email, dated 05 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process from Renergen:</p> <p>The aim of public participation is to allow for meaningful engagement. We cannot reasonably engage the developer without receiving the data in the format required/requested. The provision of this information is not as you put it “at the discretion of the developer to distribute”, instead it is a reasonable and necessary request. In this regard, please ensure that you obtain the data and provide it to us in a timely manner.</p> <p>Tetra4 is the holder of a Production Right granted in terms of Section 84 of the MPRDA. We have held this license since 2012 and it allows us, together with our NEMA approvals, to undertake activities within the boundaries of the licensed areas, including the property on which this solar development is proposed. In addition, we are also in the process of expanding our project. As the holder of an existing right, it is your obligation (as an EAP) to provide us the data required in order for us to contextualise the project and consider the impacts to our rights, if any</p>	<p>Environamics acknowledged the email and provided a response on 06 April 2022. The response is included herewith.</p> <p>As explained to Pieter, the detailed layout is not available as yet. The EIA process only commenced now with the distribution of the notification for the EIA process. The project is still in its planning phase. Furthermore, the specialist fieldwork results will be considered by the developer/applicant to ensure that areas of high environmental sensitivity are avoided by the planned layout. Due to the early stage of the process, we only have information available pertaining to the EIA area under assessment and the development footprint area (within which the infrastructure is proposed to be placed).</p> <p>A KMZ/Google Earth file was attached which shows the details available at this stage with some locations of proposed infrastructure – this is subject to change depending on the results of the specialist surveys (i.e. consideration of no-go</p>

		<p>@Gerhard Muller, please provide Lisa with a copy of approved Production Right, NEMA and DWA approvals. We look forward to receiving the data and then engaging more fruitfully with you and the developer.</p>	<p>areas where applicable). It was requested that the KMZ file be treated as confidential as the information has not yet been released formally to the public – it will only become available once the draft Scoping Report is released for the 30-day review and comment period.</p> <p>It was also indicated and confirmed that the Applicant of the Oryx Solar Power Plant will be meeting with Renergen on 06 April 2022 to discuss the technical aspects / challenges that will need to be considered.</p> <p>The Production Right was noted. However no documentation has been received from the I&AP as indicated.</p> <p>Environamics indicated that all information will be made available to Renergen as part of the EIA process, including both the Scoping and EIA Reports for review and comment.</p> <p>It must be noted that further discussions between the Applicant and Renergen have been undertaken to date pertaining to layout discussions and technical details which will be considered by both parties for the layouts of both projects to ensure that both facilities can be developed and operated accordingly.</p>
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<p>Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS)</p>	<p>Qaphela Magaqa (EAP for Renergen project)</p>	<p>In an email, dated 06 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process from EIMS:</p> <p>Furthermore, may you please provide us with locality details for your solar power plant project.</p> <p>May you please supply us with the shapefiles of the proposed infrastructure and powerlines for the Oryx Solar Power Plant.</p>	<p>Environamics provided the locality map of the project location and Background Information Document to the I&AP via email on 06 April 2022.</p> <p>Regarding the infrastructure of the project, it was indicated that the detailed layout is not available as yet. The EIA process only just commenced with the distribution of the notification for the EIA process. The project is still in its planning phase. Furthermore, the specialist fieldwork results will be considered by the developer/applicant to ensure that areas of high environmental sensitivity are avoided by the planned layout. Due to the early stage of the process, we only have information available pertaining to the EIA area under assessment and the development footprint area (within which the infrastructure is proposed to be placed). We have subsequently distributed a KMZ file to the Tetra4 Cluster 2 Applicant (also provided to EIMS) so that the technical aspects and challenges can be discussed between both parties.</p> <p>The KMZ file was attached which shows the details available at this stage with some locations of proposed infrastructure – this is subject to change depending on the results of the specialist surveys (i.e. consideration of no-go areas where applicable). It was requested that the KMZ file be treated as confidential as the information had not yet been released formally to the public – it will only become available once the Scoping</p>
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			Report is released for the 30-day review and comment period.
Environmental Impact Management Services (EIMS)	Brian Whitfield	<p>In an email, dated 07 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process from EIMS:</p> <p>Further to your correspondence submitted on the Tetra4 Cluster 2 gas production project, please note that I am the EAP on this application. As such would you kindly register me as an interested party on your database for the proposed Oryx Solar Power Plant application and keep me abreast of any further notifications and opportunities to review information. Please register both [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED].</p> <p>As our respective applications overlap, I feel it prudent that we have clear communication channels and understanding between the two applications to ensure that adequate consideration and assessment of potential impacts are undertaken.</p> <p>Please would you confirm receipt of this mail and confirm that my details have been added to your database.</p>	<p>Environamics confirmed via email, on 07 April 2022, that the details for registration as part of the I&AP database has been included.</p> <p>It was also indicated that with the registration completed, the I&AP will be notified of the release of the Scoping and EIA Reports for the 30-day review and comment period(s). The Background Information Document was also attached and sent to the I&AP.</p> <p>It was indicated by Environamics that the application form and draft scoping report for the project will be submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in May 2022. Stakeholders have until 10 May to provide us with written comments on the BID and project information.</p> <p>Environamics agreed that there is a need for clear and open communication and therefore confirm that Environamics is open to all discussions pertaining to the two projects.</p>
Registered I&AP	Lawrence Mojalefa Machitje	<p>In an email, dated 07 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process (advertisement) from an I&AP:</p> <p>I am sending you the email with reference to the recruitment advertisement for environmental impact assessment. I am interested in applying for the job as I have qualification of</p>	<p>The I&AP has been registered on the project database.</p> <p>It was advised that Environamics is only responsible for the Environmental impact Assessment processes, and are not involved in the actual developments such as construction</p>

		<p>occupation Health and safety activities and skills of leadership and basic Rigging.</p> <p>I would like to mention that I have an excellent experience in the field from 2017 to 2021. I have a deep passion for basic Rigging, plumbing and safety representative and I would like to do team work for department which will benefit the human being.</p> <p>I had always thought of working with the company. It will be an opportunity of a lifetime for me and I can assure you to give my level best in case if I am selected for giving my services to your company.</p> <p>I am herewith attaching of my resume with this email. I will eagerly await for the interview call from your company.</p>	<p>and operation, other than the environmental permitting. The project is still in its planning phase.</p> <p>No further response required.</p>
Eskom	John Geeringh	<p>In an email, dated 11 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process from Eskom:</p> <p>Please send me a KMX file of the proposed development affected property and proposed grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure, as well as an Eskom setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments near Eskom infrastructure.</p>	<p>Environamics responded on 12 April 2022 via email.</p> <p>The KMZ file was distributed to Eskom as was requested.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure, as well as an Eskom setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments near Eskom infrastructure has been submitted to the Applicant for their records and consideration.</p>

Aberdare Cables	Conrad Van Biljon	<p>In an email, dated 04 March 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process:</p> <p>Aberdare Cables is an local level 1 BEE manufacturer of electrical cables and a market leader in the renewable sector. We can provide all the necessary cables needs for this proposed solar facility and will appreciate it if we can obtain more information regarding the proposed plant in order for us to assist were possible. Below is all my contact details should you have any enquiries.</p>	<p>Environamics confirmed on 09 March 2022, via email, that the I&AP has been registered on the project database.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the project information will be distributed to the I&AP once available.</p> <p>The I&AP has been notified of the availability of the draft Scoping Report for the 30-day review and comment period.</p>
IA Carriers	Debbie Benson	<p>In an email, dated 03 March 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process:</p> <p>I hereby wish to register as an interested and affected party to the project titled: The Proposed Oryx Solar Power Plant near Virginia, Free State Province</p>	<p>Environamics confirmed on 03 March 2022, via email, that the I&AP has been registered on the project database.</p>
Renergen	Gerhard Muller	<p>In an email, dated 28 March 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process:</p> <p>I would herby wish to register as an I&AP as part of the public participation for the proposed Oryx Solar Power Plant, on portion 2 of the farm 225, Theunissen.</p> <p>As such can you please;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register me as an I&AP; 	<p>Environamics confirmed on 30 March 2022, via email, that the I&AP has been registered on the project database.</p> <p>It was indicated that the project is still in the initial Public Participation phase and the Background Information Document (as well as locality map) will be released to the public soon. The background information document will include the location of the activity, a brief</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply me with the works programme, schedule and scope of works; • Shapefiles and maps of the affected properties and infrastructure locations (PV) • Shapefiles and maps of the affected properties and routing (powerline or any other infrastructure); and • Draft impact assessment and EMPR 	<p>overview of the schedule and relevant project description information.</p> <p>Furthermore, it was indicated that he Draft reports will be circulated to the public once available. All I&APs will be notified of the availability of the reports and a link to a document sharing platform will be provided for easy access to the reports, as well as the relevant appendices.</p>
Kudzai Constructions and Electrical Services	Mr. SR Senyane	<p>During a telephonic discussion held on 03 March 2022 the following was discussed and confirmed via email with the I&AP:</p> <p>Thank you for the call. This email serves as confirmation of your registration as an Interested and Affected party for the proposed Oryx Solar Power Plant, near Virginia</p>	No further correspondence has been received from the I&AP.
Kobolika (Pty) Ltd	Tumo Nthako	<p>In an email, dated 23 April 2022, the following correspondence was received on the Notification of the EIA process from the I&AP:</p> <p>I would like to know how far is the Environmental Impact Assessment application for the above proposed Plant.</p>	<p>Environamics responded on 25 April 2022, via email.</p> <p>It was indicated that the Application for Environmental Authorisation for the Oryx Solar Power Plant has not been submitted to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment as yet. The project is currently in the pre-submission phase and the public participation process has commenced.</p> <p>Do you want to register on the project database to received further information as the process progresses?</p>

			It was confirmed that the I&AP has been registered on the project database
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