

Varkenslaagte: Comments and Response Report

Comments received prior to the release of the Draft Scoping Report for the 30-day review and comment period

Organisation	Person	Issue or comment raised (see Appendix C5 & C6 of the draft Scoping Report)	Addressing or incorporation of issue or comment
SAHRA	Andrew Salomon	<p>In a letter dated 25 November 2022 the following comment was received:</p> <p>The activities entail the development of an up to 240MW photovoltaic solar facility and associated infrastructure on Portion 1 of the Farm Varkenslaagte No. 119, Portion 3 of the Farm Kleinfontein No. 141 and Portions 1, 11, 23 and 28 of the Farm Doornfontein No. 118, situated within the Merafong Local Municipality area of jurisdiction in the Gauteng Province. The town of Carletonville is located approximately 12km east of the proposed development. The project entails the generation of up to 240MW electrical power through photovoltaic (PV) panels. The total footprint of the project will approximately be 480 hectares (including supporting infrastructure on site)</p> <p>Thank you for your notification regarding this development. In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999, heritage resources, including archaeological or palaeontological sites over 100 years old, graves older than 60 years, structures older than 60 years are protected. They may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority. This means that prior to development it is incumbent on the developer to ensure that a Heritage Impact Assessment is done. This must include the archaeological component (Phase 1) and any other applicable heritage</p>	<p>A Heritage Impact Assessment and Palaeontological Impact Assessment (Appendix E6 & E7 of the draft Basic Assessment Report) has been distributed to the official for review and comment.</p> <p>These studies include an assessment of the archaeology and palaeontology of the site. The documents have been uploaded to the Case ID on SAHRIS as required by SAHRA</p>

		<p>components. Appropriate (Phase 2) mitigation, which involves recording, sampling and dating sites that are to be destroyed, must be done as required. The quickest process to follow for the archaeological component is to contract an accredited specialist (see the web site of the Association of Southern African Professional Archaeologists www.asapa.org.za) to provide a Phase 1 Archaeological Impact Assessment Report. This must be done before any large development takes place. The Phase 1 Impact Assessment Report will identify the archaeological sites and assess their significance. It should also make recommendations (as indicated in section 38) about the process to be followed. For example, there may need to be a mitigation phase (Phase 2) where the specialist will collect or excavate material and date the site. At the end of the process the heritage authority may give permission for destruction of the sites</p> <p>Where bedrock is to be affected, or where there are coastal sediments, or marine or river terraces and in potentially fossiliferous superficial deposits, a Palaeontological Desk Top study must be undertaken to assess whether or not the development will impact upon palaeontological resources - or at least a letter of exemption from a Palaeontologist is needed to indicate that this is unnecessary. If the area is deemed sensitive, a full Phase 1 Palaeontological Impact Assessment will be required and if necessary a Phase 2 rescue operation might be necessary. Please note that a nationwide fossil sensitivity map is available on SAHRIS to assist applicants with determining the fossil sensitivity of a study area. If the property is very small or disturbed and there is no significant site the heritage specialist may choose to send a letter to the heritage authority motivating for exemption from having to undertake further heritage assessments. Any other heritage</p>	
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		resources 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. Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.	
Openserve	Wayne Goosen	<p>In a letter dated 22 November 2022 the following comment was received:</p> <p>RE: NOTIFICATION OF SCOPING & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PROCESS: Varkenslaagte development near Carletonville - TELKOM/ OPENSERVE AFFECTED</p> <p>With reference to your above-mentioned application, I hereby inform you that the proposed services are approved in terms of section 22 of the Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005.</p> <p>Underground crossing(s)/pipelines marked BLUE are important and require supervisions by this Company.</p> <p>Your attention is particularly directed to the marked paragraph(s).</p> <p>1. Approved on conditions that, should if later be found necessary to deviate the existing communication line due to existing noise interference, the cost of such remedial action shall be repayable.</p>	<p>Environamics acknowledges the comments raised and thank Openserve for the letter and sketch provided regarding the Varkenslaagte Development</p> <p>We take note of the approval and requirements as stipulated in the email. A draft scoping report will be provided should you wish to provide any further comment based on the project specific details.</p>

		<p>2. Crossing(s) marked BLUE do not meet these requirements, and the existing communication lines will have to be deviated to eliminate excessive noise interference and the cost will be for the power provider.</p> <p>3. Paragraph 2.4.1 of the Code of Practice stipulates the minimum acceptable horizontal separation between power and the communication lines and where this cannot be met, the design of the power line is also stipulated. This could apply between the attached plan and these requirements should strictly be adhered to.</p> <p>4. Calculations have shown that earth fault on the high voltage power lines will induce excessive low frequency induction into the communication line. As a result of this, the cost to deviate / alter the communication lines to prevent this induction will be for the power provider.</p> <p>At the points where this Company's existing or projected underground communication cable will be crossed by an underground cable, the latter should be laid at a depth of at least 300 mm below the communication cable - normally laid at depth of + 600 mm. If the power cables is not enclosed in a suitable pipe, protection in the form of a concrete slab should be provided immediately above the power cable for a minimum of 2 (two) meter on either side of the crossing.</p> <p>6. In case where an underground power cable will run parallel with an existing or projected underground communication cable, a separation as great as possible should be maintained with minimum separation of 600mm. Should the separation be less than 600mm and the power cable is not enclosed in a suitable pipe, a concrete slab must be provided immediately above the power cable for the length of parallelism. If the</p>	
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ESKOM	John Geeringh	<p>In an email dated 01 December the following comment was received:</p> <p>Please send me KMZ files of the affected property and proposed development footprint as well as the proposed grid connection. Please find attached Eskom requirements for work at or near Eskom infrastructure and servitudes, as well as a setbacks guideline for renewable energy developments.</p> <p>Kind regards</p>	<p>Environamics has taken note of the request and the KMZ files were sent to the stakeholder. The details provided on the Eskom requirements for work is acknowledged and will be adhered to.</p>
		<p>The attached letter dated 01 December in the aforementioned comments by ESKOM is outlined below:</p> <p>TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</p>	

Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.

1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.

2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.

3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.

4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.

5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.

6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements

to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.

7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.

8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.

9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or

precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where and electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.

11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.

12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993).

13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.

		<p>14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.</p> <p>15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.</p> <p>16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.</p> <p>17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.</p>	
		<p>In an email dated 26 January 2023 the following comment was received:</p> <p>Hi Environamics team,</p>	<p>Environamics responded in an email dated 31 November 2023:</p>

		<p>Can you please register me as an I&AP for the 6 project cluster at Carmel MTS and also send me the BID's?</p> <p>Regards</p>	<p>Good Day,</p> <p>We have registered you as an I&AP as per your request. Please also find attached the BIDs</p> <p>Warm Regards.</p>
NWPG	Obitseng Moholo	<p>In an email dated 25 January 2023 the following comments were received:</p> <p>Good morning The Department would like to be furnished with hard copy of draft report in order to provide comments. The report must be couriered to [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>Environamics has taken note of the request and has couriered hard copies as per the department's request.</p>

I&AP	Kim Pontac	<p>In an email dated 08 November 2022 the following comments were received:</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I wish to register for the above-mentioned project on behalf of Legacy Environmental Management Consulting. My contact details are found in the below signature.</p>	<p>In email dated 06 December 2022 Environamics responded:</p> <p>Dear Kim,</p> <p>I can confirm that you have been registered as an I&AP for the following projects near Carletonville:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmel Solar 1 • Carmel Solar 2 • Carmel Solar 3 • Rooidraai Solar • Turffontein Solar 1 • Varkenslaagte Solar <p>We will notify you of the availability of the Draft Scoping Reports during January 2023.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p>
		<p>In a follow-up email dated 07 December 2022 the following comments were received:</p> <p>Thank you so much for the confirmation. It is much appreciated.</p> <p>In turn, using the information below, I have also registered you as a representative of Environamics on our project(s). I will</p>	<p>Environamics acknowledges the registration as a representative</p>

	<p>notify you as soon as any information is available for public review and comment.</p>	
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Thank you for your assistance in this regard. Have a wonderful day!