

25 July 2012

Dear Organ of State

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**PROPOSED NAAUW POORT SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY SOUTH OF  
NOUPOORT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
DEA REF NO.: 14/12/16/3/3/2/355  
NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

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**Naauw Poort Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd** is proposing to establish a commercial photovoltaic solar energy facility (75 MW) on a site located in the Umsobomvu Local Municipality. The site identified for consideration within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is located in the Northern Cape Province, and lies approximately 10 km south of Noupoort. The proposed facility is known as the **Naauw Poort Solar Energy Facility (75 MW)**.

The project is proposed on the Remaining Extent of Farm 1/1 with an extent of 2104 ha. The facility would include the following infrastructure:

- » An array of photovoltaic (PV) panels;
- » A new on-site substation to evacuate the power from the facility into the Eskom grid;
- » The substation is proposed to be connected via a loop-in loop-out connection to the existing 132kV power line. Alternatively, the existing power line may be upgraded or a new power line could be constructed;
- » Mounting structure to be either rammed steel piles or piles with pre-manufactured concrete footings to support the PV panels;
- » Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical;
- » Internal access roads and fencing; and
- » A workshop area for maintenance, storage, and offices.

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 - R546, a Scoping and EIA process is required to be undertaken for the proposed project. Naauw Poort Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd requires authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (in consultation with the Northern Cape Department of Environmental and Nature Conservation) for the undertaking of the proposed project.

In order to obtain authorisation for this project, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations. This project has been registered with National DEA under Application Reference number **14/12/16/3/3/2/355**.

Naauw Poort Solar Energy (Pty) Ltd appointed **Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd** to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment processes to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts that might arise as a result of the proposed project. The public participation process, which forms part of the overall EIA process, will also be undertaken by Savannah Environmental. **In this regard, please could you kindly provide us with the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project.** By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the EIA process.

Please find herewith the **Background Information Document** for the solar energy facility project. Please could you kindly submit your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard? All comments received will be submitted in the Scoping and EIA reports which will be submitted to the DEA. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or email.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind Regards

**MRS GABRIELE WOOD**  
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT**  
**SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL**