



**MINUTES OF THE PRE APPLICATION MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT:
PART 2 ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT APPLICATION
FOR THE 75 MW HUMANSRUS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) 1 SOLAR POWER
FACILITY (REFERRED TO AS LESEDI POWER COMPANY)**

REFERENCE NUMBER: 2022-09-0038

MEETING DATE	14 October 2022
VENUE	Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams
TIME	11:00 - 12:00

Meeting Attendees

Name and Surname	Position	Company
Lizette Kloppers	Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	EARTHnSKY Environmental
Rachelle Botha	Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	EARTHnSKY Environmental
Zusipe Mbodla	Candidate Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)	EARTHnSKY Environmental
Kuben Naicker	Applicant	Lesedi Power Company
Odwa Nkcitakalo	Applicant	Lesedi Power Company
Thuso Jones	Applicant	Lesedi Power Company
Mandy Momberg	Applicant	Unisam Environmental
Julliet Mahlangu	Case Officer	DFFE
Nyiko Nkosi		DFFE
Zama Langa		DFFE
Ditebogo Chantell Mabusela		DFFE
Apologies		
Thigesh Velen	Applicant	Lesedi Power Company
Dr. Danie Smit		DFFE

These meeting minutes serve as a summary of the Pre-Application Meeting, covering key issues raised and discussed. Please note that the meeting notes provided below relate to the slides presented during the meeting.



Slide	Notes	Action
1	Overview Slide for the meeting.	None.
2	Meeting Agenda Lizette presented the agenda for the meeting.	None.
3	Opening of meeting and admin Lizette opened the meeting. Admin arrangements were highlighted for the meeting. Apologies were noted.	None.
4	Introduction of meeting attendees All attendees introduced themselves.	None.
5	Overview of Proposed Project Lizette introduced Oakleaf Investment Holdings 79 (RF) (Pty) Ltd as the applicant and the proposed project as the Environmental Authorisation amendment application for the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 Solar Power Facility (referred to as Lesedi Power Company). She indicated the locality of the proposed powerline and stated that the project is located on Portion 0 of the Farm 469, Hay Rd (note added after meeting: Should be Remainder of Farm 469, Hay Rd, as confirmed on original Title Deed). She also indicated that the application is a Part 2 Environmental Authorisation Amendment application (amendment where a change in scope occurs).	None.
6 and 7	Lizette indicated the locality of the project on a map, with the site being in the Northern Cape, approximately 24km East of Postmasburg. The project site consists of Lesedi North- and South Solar fields. She also mentioned that Jasper Solar Power Plant and the Redstone CSP are not part of the project scope.	None.
8 and 9	Background to Application Lizette indicated the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2011 an EA was issued by DFFE (then DEA) for the construction of the 160MW Humansrus Solar Power Farm on the Farm Humansrus 469. Due to Eskom's restrictions in terms of the Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), an amendment application was lodged to split the 160MW Humansrus Solar Power Farm into two separate 75MW solar facilities (for Lesedi- and Jasper Power Projects), and therefore two separate EAs. Lizette reiterated that the application was for the Lesedi Power Project. • A subsequent Environmental Authorisation amendment was granted in 2012 to change the holder of the Environmental Authorisation from Intikon Energy (Pty) Ltd. to Oakleaf Investment Holdings 79 (Pty) Ltd. • In 2017, a further EA amendment application was submitted (but never completed because authorization was first required for Section 21 (c), (i) and (f) water uses in terms of the National Water Act, 1998). Those water use registration aspects were addressed and a registration certificate was issued for various roads and the powerline that cross watercourses. It was mentioned that a letter was also issued by the DWS confirming that sewage effluent discharge on site falls within the ambit of a General Authorization under section 21(f) and is a permissible water use under section 22 of the NWA. All the water use aspects have therefore been addressed. 	None.
10-12	Current Environmental Authorisation Lizette indicated that the current EA for the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 solar power facility (referred to as Lesedi Power Company) includes the following listed activities:	None.



Slide	Notes	Action
	<p>GN R. 387:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1(a)(i): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the generation of electricity where electricity output is 20 megawatts or more. • Item 1(a)(ii): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the generation of electricity where the elements of the facility cover a combined area in excess of 1 hectare. • Item 1(l): The transmission and distribution of above ground electricity with capacity of 120 kilovolts or more. • Item 2: Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the total area of the developed area is, or is intended to be, 20 hectares or more. <p>GN R 386:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1(m): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose in the one in ten year flood line of a river or stream, or within 32m from the back of a river or stream where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including (i) canals; (ii) channels; (iii) bridges; (iv) dams; and (v) weirs. • Item 12: The transformation or removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered or an endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004). • Item 16(b): The transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use where such development does not constitute infill and where the total area to be transformed is bigger than 1 hectare. <p>Lizette confirmed that the listed activities included in the existing EA cover the amendments to be applied for. No additional listed activities are triggered.</p>	
13-28	<p>Overview of Proposed Application</p> <p>Lizette confirmed that the current EA amendment application will be lodged in order to finalise the application that was initiated but not completed in 2017. The impact assessment in the Environmental Impact Report will assess the impacts of all the relevant amendments applied for.</p> <p>EA amendment is sought for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • i. Confirmation of change of the contact person for Oakleaf Investment Holdings 79 (Pty) Ltd. (Trading as Lesedi Power Company (Pty) Ltd.). <p>Nyiko (DFFE) asked how far in the process the 2017 amendment application was when it lapsed? Nyiko asked what was submitted to the Department and who the Case Officer was on the project?</p>	



Slide	Notes	Action
	<p>Lizette responded that the application was done by a different Environmental consulting company and that the application was submitted. She asked Mandy for confirmation that no impact reports were submitted.</p> <p>Mandy added that the case officer will be checked on the application, however, the draft EIR was made available for the stakeholder engagement process and submitted to the Department, according to her knowledge. That was when the water use matter was raised and resulted in the final report not being submitted within the 90 days cut-off time. The application process therefore lapsed.</p> <p>Nyiko asked that the applicant please check and send to the Department any and all communication from the Department regarding the 2017 application (including who the case officer was). This communication must be sent along with the minutes of the pre-application meeting. The Department wants to liaise with the case officer on the 2017 application as they have background information on the project.</p> <p>Mandy agreed to this resolution and request by the Department and the Department was satisfied with the answer to the question.</p> <p>Lizette continued with the presentation, stating that the following amendments would be applied for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ii. To amend the size and location of the substation and indicate that the substation area comprises a control room, external 132kV transformers, electric switch gear, capacitor banks and is fenced for security and safety. • iii. To indicate the location of the operations and maintenance facility, and to show this consists of an office and storage buildings, security, ablution facilities, parking, outdoor storage area and water treatment facility. • iv. To include aboveground 22kV power lines between the northern solar field and the substation, i.e., across the railway line and D3381 road. • v. Relaxation of the 200m visual buffer (condition 29 of the EA) and the 50m buffer (condition 30 of the EA) for the aboveground 22kV power lines between the northern solar field and the substation that cross the railway line and D3381 road. An updated Visual Impact Assessment has already been completed. The specialist rated impacts as medium after mitigation and the construction of above ground powerlines were not seen as a fatal flaw. • vi. To show PV arrays of up to 1km in length across the south solar field and up to 1,5km in length across the north solar field, and made up of approximately 100m sections. The EA mentions 1km but 1.5km are required. • vii. To accommodate the temporary storage of up to 300 waste solar PV modules on site, in compliance with the 2013 National Norms and Standards for the storage of waste, as per NEM:WA Regulations (a N&S Registration application will also be lodged with the DFFE for the storage of the waste solar PV modules). • viii. To align the authorised development footprint with the farm boundary, to accommodate the overburden storage area, and to indicate that a small borrow pit 	<p>Meeting minutes are to be sent to the DFFE accompanied by all communication during the 2017 application process.</p>



Slide	Notes	Action
	<p>on site was not needed during the construction phase, as excess overburden was used for filling. Lizette further stated that the borrow-pit was authorized but never built. The overburden storage area was well rehabilitated. In terms of the development footprint, the Eskom servitude was authorized as the development footprint. The amendment seeks to use the farm boundary as the development footprint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ix. To indicate that the solar irradiation measuring panel (approximately 16m² in size) was in place during the feasibility stage, to collect data on the solar resource which informed the layout of the facility, but was not permanent, and was removed prior to commencement of operations. • x. To include three autonomous weather stations (aws), approximately 4m in height, for continuous monitoring of local conditions during the operational phase, and three soiling stations consisting of two PV panels each, measuring approximately 4m² in size each, to monitor and determine operational efficiencies • xi. Approval of the as-built drawings and layout plans for the entire operations. 	
29	<p>Proposed process to be followed for the EA Amendment Application Lizette detailed the following process that will be followed for the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-application meeting with DFFE • Payment of application fee (R2 000-00) • Submission of EA Amendment Application Form to DFFE & acknowledgement of receipt by DFFE • Circulation of Environmental Impact Report to potential and registered I&APs, organs of state and DFFE for review and commenting (at least 30 days). <p>Public Participation process to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site notice boards • Newspaper advertisement in one local newspaper • Circulation of Report or electronic link to the Report via email, SMS and WhatsApp • Placement of Report at the local library for public viewing • Incorporation of the EA Amendment application's information in Lesedi's existing community engagement process to be undertaken. The engagement includes nearby communities/community representatives, ward councillors, local municipalities etc. • No public meeting (engagement through Lesedi's existing community engagement process) for efficiency as relationships have been established with all community groups and representatives • Comments and Responses Report and I&AP Register maintenance • Submission of the Environmental Impact Report to DFFE within 90 days from submission of the EA Amendment Application. Report compiled in terms of Regulation 32(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations. No additional specialist studies identified at this stage. Revised VIA already completed. • Notification to I&APs on Department's Decision: Circulation of notification letters via email, SMS and WhatsApp and the placement of a newspaper advertisement in one local newspaper. 	None.



Slide	Notes	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication with I&APs regarding the Department's decision will also be done via Lesedi's existing community engagement process. 	
30	<p>Lizette opens the floor for questions</p> <p>Nyiko referred to the amendment of the location and size of the substation (slide 14). Question: Is the substation already completed? Lizette responded: Yes, the photos shown are of the substation. Nyiko: As part of the amendment, are you amending the location? Lizette: Yes. Nyiko: You (the applicant) went ahead and constructed in an area which was not authorised for the substation? Are you applying for amendment to rectify what you have commenced with without the Department's approval? Is that correct?</p> <p>Lizette asked Mandy to answer and Mandy responded as follows:</p> <p>Mandy: There is no record of the approved final layout plan, she asked the Department to check if there is a record of the approved final layout plan on the Departments side. The only record on hand on the applicant's side is the draft layout plan from 2011. The substation was authorised, but there was a NERSA 2014 Grid Code requirement in 2014 that a substation could not be tied into the Eskom grid without capacitor banks in place. To comply, capacitor banks were installed next to the substation. The Department was informed of this installation, but no formal application process was initiated. Nyiko: Asks for an indication of the approved location for the substation before it was moved. Mandy indicates the location on the map as an area directly adjacent to the eastern boundary of the solar panels at the south solar field. Nyiko: Is the area it was moved to part of the development footprint that was authorised? What does the EA say regarding the approval of the layout plan, what does the EMPr say about the approved layout plan? So, you need to check if the layout plan was approved. Mandy: The Authorisation approves the draft EMPr that was submitted in 2011 with the final EIR. The development footprint that is approved is within the farm boundary. Nyiko: Indicates that the conditions of the EA state that any changes to the authorised layout must be approved by the Department prior to making changes to the approved layout. The applicant constructed the substation without approval; therefore, an EA amendment cannot be applied for because the substation has already been constructed. The matter is now a compliance matter. The Compliance Section must be informed to investigate on site and to provide guidance as to how to proceed. This cannot be done as part of an EA amendment application.</p> <p>Lizette asked Mandy to please confirm if the (updated) drawings/site layout plan were submitted to the Department. Mandy responded that she would have to check the records. Lizette recommends that the applicant reverts back to the Department after tracking all records of documents and submissions to the Department.</p>	<p>EAP to send the pre-application meeting presentation, minutes and required historic documents for the site to the Department as soon possible.</p>



Slide	Notes	Action
	<p>Nyiko agreed to Lizette's recommendation and added that they would invite someone from the Compliance Section to join the next meeting/further discussions. She reiterated that if the approval was sought, the amendment of the EA would have been triggered.</p> <p>Nyiko further asked if the construction of Lesedi has been concluded.</p> <p>Mandy responded that the construction phase of Lesedi was completed in 2014 and the operational phase commenced May 2014. The site feeds renewable energy into the power grid and was approved as part of a Bid window 1 of the REIPPP.</p> <p>Nyiko suggested that the triggered activities for the EA must be checked i.e. if the authorisation is for "development and operation" or "development" only.</p> <p>Mandy responded that the EA was for development activities (2006 EIA regulations), for the construction of a renewable energy facility for power generation. The EA stated that the draft EMPr was approved for the construction phase and further stated that an EMPr was required for the operational phase. Lesedi submitted an EMPr in 2019 and the Department acknowledged receipt of the updated EMPr. Furthermore, another update was sent to the Department and acknowledged early this year (February 2022). The application to amend the EA is in response to findings from external audits and the applicant decided to apply for amendment of their EA in order to be fully compliant.</p> <p>Nyiko asked if all the proposed amendments that are being applied for have already been concluded?</p> <p>Mandy responded yes, and further stated that the amendments are being applied for in order to comply with external audit findings.</p> <p>Nyiko responded that EA amendment applications were usually done for amendments that were yet to commence and were proposed, not to rectify amendments that have taken place. This makes the matter a non-compliance issue and must be reported to the DFFE's compliance Department.</p> <p>Mandy responded that external audits were reported yearly to the Department within 24 hours of receiving the final audit report, these include compliance findings against the Facility. For context she added that another facility (Letsatsi) managed by the same board of directors had an EMI inspection where the inspectors advised a similar amendment to the EA. The Letsatsi facility was then granted a retrospective EA amendment in 2018. This was for similar activities as the ones that Lesedi are now applying for.</p> <p>Lizette suggested that the previous case officer be engaged regarding the 2017 amendment process which was submitted and proceeded to the point where the EIR was circulated for draft without being reverted to a compliance matter (note added after</p>	



Slide	Notes	Action
	<p>meeting: it was confirmed that the draft EIR was prepared but not submitted for stakeholder review and commenting). The applicant would also revert to the Department with all the supporting documents submitted after the EA was granted for Lesedi.</p> <p>Nyiko responded that the Department should be provided with all the information including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presentation; • An indication of when all the changes for which amendment is being applied for were done (how long after the EA was issued were the changes made); • Confirmation of when the activities were concluded; • Confirmation of whether the non-compliances were reported to the Department and the details of the official that conducted compliance site visits (if applicable). <p>This information will be used by the Department to conduct their internal investigations and to then advise on the process to be followed regarding this application.</p> <p>Mandy added that for context, the 2017 amendment application included the discharge of brine from a reverse osmosis water treatment plant which was used to demineralize the water which is used to clean the solar panels. DWS suggested that alternative technologies be sought to demineralize water for the cleaning of the solar panels. An alternative system was found in 2020. From March 2018 brine was no longer discharged on site.</p> <p>The 2017 application also included an application to install a diesel tank but there was no longer a need for a diesel tank. These two aspects were included in the 2017 application but are not part of the current application process.</p> <p>Nyiko responded that it was imperative to find the previous case officer assigned to the 2017 application because they have a background on that application and can provide assistance.</p> <p>Mandy added that she has an acknowledgement of receipt letter for the application for amendment dated November 2017 from Mr. Sizwe Mabilisa and signed by the Chief Director: Mr. Sabelo Malaza (DFFE).</p> <p>Nyiko asked for this letter to be sent to the Department as well. Mandy added that they will look for and send any other correspondence with the Department.</p> <p>Lizette asked the panel for any further questions. No further questions were raised.</p>	
31	<p>Feedback from DFFE on the proposed application and proposed process to be followed for the EA Amendment</p> <p>Lizette continued with the presentation by seeking guidance from the Department regarding the following:</p>	None.



Slide	Notes	Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation that there is no specific report template for the EA Amendment application's Environmental Impact Report • Approval of the proposed approach for the EA Amendment application, in particular the proposed public participation process • Site visit scheduling • Screening Tool Report and Site Sensitivity Verification Report required as no new listed activities are triggered and the project is an existing development? <p>Nyiko responded that the Department requires that an amendment report that complies with the EIA regulations. The EIA regulations will include all the requirements to be met by the amendment report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report must indicate the amendments required; • Assess the amendments to be done including advantages and disadvantages. • Get inputs from specialists that were used in the initial application regarding the proposed amendments and if there are additional impacts these must be assessed in the form of a report; • Final recommendations; • Final layout map/plan; and • EMPr amendment. <p>Nyiko continued: Regarding the public participation process, the public participation process must comply with the EIA regulations. Furthermore, the screening tool report applies when an EA is applied for, and listed activities are triggered. In this case because the proposed amendments have been concluded, there will be no need to generate site verification reports as required by the protocols. Site visits are normally conducted when the draft amendment reports are submitted, but due to time constraints, these can be done when the final report is submitted. However, if there is a need for a site visit, the case officer will liaise with the applicant in that regard.</p>	
32	<p>Conclusion and close-out of meeting (EAP) Lizette thanked everyone for attending the meeting and confirmed the actions and resolutions of the meeting.</p> <p>Lizette closed the meeting.</p>	None.

Appendixes

1. PowerPoint Presentation for the pre-application meeting



EARTHnSKY
environmental

P.O. Box 5419, Rietvalleirand, Pretoria, 0174
Tel: 061 524 2211 | Fax: 086 552 6837
Email: lizette@earthnsky.co.za
Website: www.earthnsky.co.za

Minutes compiled by:

Lizette Kloppers

20-10-2022

Lizette Kloppers

Date

EARTHnSKY Environmental

Minutes accepted by:

DFFE Representative

Date

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AMENDMENT APPLICATION: 75 MW HUMANSRUS PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) 1 SOLAR POWER FACILITY (REFERRED TO AS LESEDI POWER COMPANY)

Portion 0 of the Farm 469 Hay Rd

DFFE Reference No.: 2022-09-0038

14 October 2022

11:00 - 12:00

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

MEETING AGENDA

- 5 minutes: Opening of meeting (EAP)
- 5 minutes: Introduction of meeting attendees (all attendees)
- 15 minutes: Brief overview of proposed EA Amendment application and proposed process to be followed for the application (EAP)
- 10 minutes: Questions (all attendees)
- 15 minutes: Feedback from Competent Authority on the proposed EA Amendment application and proposed process to be followed
- 5 minutes: Conclusion and close-out of meeting (EAP)

OPENING OF MEETING AND ADMIN

- Welcome and thank you to DFFE
- Meeting “rules” - all participants to please mute unless speaking
- Questions can be posted in chat box or a hand can be raised
- Notes will be taken for the meeting minutes
- Any apologies?

INTRODUCTION OF MEETING ATTENDEES

EARTHnSKY Environmental (EAP)

- Lizette Kloppers
- Rachelle Botha
- Zusipe Mbodla

Lesedi Power Company (Applicant)

- Thigesh Velen
- Kuben Naicker
- Odwa Nkcitakalo
- Thuso Jones
- Mandy Momberg - Unisam Environmental

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

- Julliet Mahlangu
- Dr. Danie Smit
- Nyiko Nkosi
- Zama Langa
- Ditebogo Chantell Mabusela

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- **Applicant:** Oakleaf Investment Holdings 79 (RF) (Pty) Ltd.
- **Project name:** Environmental Authorisation amendment application for the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 Solar Power Facility (referred to as Lesedi Power Company)
- **Project location:** Portion 0 of the Farm 469 Hay Rd
- **Part 2** Environmental Authorisation Amendment application (Amendment where a change in scope occurs)

1:1,000 1000m



Bameiskui

Cwanda

Mefimatale

Postmasburg

Humansrus PV * (Lesedi Power Company)

Time Acres

Imbobe-510020 Maxar Technologies

0 500m

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 10/13/2020 lat: -21.296251° km: -23.322331° elev: 10 m eye alt: 41.41 km

BACKGROUND TO APPLICATION

- 29 August 2011: an EA was issued by DFFE (then DEA) for the construction of the 160MW Humansrus Solar Power Farm on the Farm Humansrus 469 (DEA Reference: 12/12/20/1903).
- Due to Eskom's restrictions in terms of the Renewable Energy IPP Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), an amendment application was lodged to split the 160MW Humansrus Solar Power Farm into two separate 75MW solar facilities (for Lesedi- and Jasper Power Projects), and therefore two separate EAs.
- This amendment application relates to the EA granted for the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 Solar Power Facility (Lesedi Power Company), as issued on 23 February 2012 (DEA Reference: 12/12/20/1903/1).
- A subsequent Environmental Authorisation amendment was granted on 11 July 2012 to change the holder of the Environmental Authorisation from Intikon Energy (Pty) Ltd. to Oakleaf Investment Holdings 79 (Pty) Ltd (DEA Reference: 12/12/20/1903/1).
- In 2017, a further EA amendment application was submitted (but never completed because authorization was first required for Section 21 (c), (i) and (f) water uses in terms of the National Water Act, 1998).

BACKGROUND TO APPLICATION

- A Water Use Registration Record No. 25065811 was issued by the DWS on 26 April 2019 for one road crossing a water course. This Registration Certificate was revised by the DWS on 24 June 2021 to include two additional access roads and the overhead powerline crossing watercourses (File No. 27/2/2/D173/18/1).
- The DWS also issued a letter, dated 13 July 2021 (File No. 27/2/2/C591/55/1), confirming that sewage effluent discharge on site falls within the ambit of a General Authorization under section 21(f) and is a permissible water use under section 22 of the NWA.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 12/12/20/1903/1

-as described in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated January 2012 at:

Location of Activity	Latitude	Longitude
Location of Humansrus PV 1	28°18'58.81"S	23°21'22.71"E

- for the construction of the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 Solar Power Facility on the farm Humansrus (Farm 469) within the Tsantsabane Local Municipality, in the Siyanda District Municipality, Northern Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The key components of the proposed solar power facility include the following:

- a) PV solar panels that will occupy up to 150 ha (1.5 km²) of the site area in total;
- b) 280 000 solar panels;
- c) The panels will be 15m² in size and will be mounted on metal frames with a maximum height of 3m above ground;
- d) The PV arrays will be 1 km in length and made up of approximately 100 m sections;
- e) Internal electrical collection systems which includes inverters connected to each PV array to convert the direct current (DC) to alternate current (AC);
- f) A new substation which would include a control room, an operations and maintenance facility, parking, external 132kV transformers and electric switch gear and will have a footprint of up to 1,000m² in size;
- g) An access to the site via the R385 or DD381 roads;
- h) Access tracks adjacent to each row of the PV array plus tracks between the other components of the development. Site access roads of up to 6 m wide with drainage trenches adjacent to the road;
- a) Additional Infrastructure that will form part of the development will include:
 - A permanent solar irradiation panel (approximately 16m² in size) will be erected to collect data on the solar resource of the site.
 - A small office and storage building with security and ablution facilities.
 - Site fencing of 2.5m in height.
 - A lay-down area for temporary storage of materials during the construction activities and a small borrow pit on site.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The current EA for the 75 MW Humansrus Photovoltaic (PV) 1 solar power facility (referred to as Lesedi Power Company) includes the following listed activities:

GN R. 387:

- Item 1(a)(i): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the **generation of electricity** where electricity output is **20 megawatts or more**.
- Item 1(a)(ii): The construction of facilities or infrastructure, including associated structures or infrastructure, for the **generation of electricity** where the elements of the facility cover a combined **area in excess of 1 hectare**.
- Item 1(l): The **transmission and distribution of above ground electricity** with capacity of **120 kilovolts or more**.
- Item 2: Any development activity, including associated structures and infrastructure, where the **total area of the developed area** is, or is intended to be, **20 hectares or more**.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

GN R. 386:

- Item 1(m): The construction of **facilities or infrastructure**, including associated structures or infrastructure, for any purpose **in the one in ten year flood line** of a river or stream, **or within 32m from the back of a river or stream** where the flood line is unknown, excluding purposes associated with existing residential use, but including (i) canals; (ii) channels; (iii) bridges; (iv) dams; and (v) weirs.
- Item 12: The **transformation or removal of indigenous vegetation of 3 hectares or more** or of any size where the transformation or removal would occur within a critically endangered or an endangered ecosystem listed in terms of section 52 of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004).
- Item 16(b): The **transformation of undeveloped, vacant or derelict land to residential, mixed, retail, commercial, industrial or institutional use** where such development does not constitute infill and where the total area to be transformed is **bigger than 1 hectare**.
- The listed activities included in the existing EA cover the amendments to be applied for. No additional listed activities are triggered.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

This current EA amendment application is lodged in order to finalise the application that was initiated but not completed in 2017.

The impact assessment in the Environmental Impact Report will assess the impacts of all the relevant amendments applied for.

EA amendment is sought for the following:

- i. Confirmation of change of the contact person for Oakleaf Investment Holdings 79 (Pty) Ltd. (Trading as Lesedi Power Company (Pty) Ltd.)

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- ii. To amend the size and location of the substation, and indicate that the substation area comprises a control room, external 132kV transformers, electric switch gear, capacitor banks and is fenced for security and safety



by: [unreadable] 18888.com

Lesedi South solar field

Substation

Capacitor banks

Image © 2009 Google Technologies

0.1 km

Google Earth

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- iii. To indicate the location of the operations and maintenance facility, and to show this consists of an office and storage buildings, security, ablution facilities, parking, outdoor storage area and water treatment facility



12/02/2021 14:55:33 (UTC)

Water treatment facility (mobile)

Outdoor storage area

Warehouse: storage of waste solar PV modules

Parking

Operations and maintenance facility

Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies

Google Earth

40 m

Imagery Date: 03/2020 Lat: 26.01000° Lon: 89.55390° Alt: 0 m Speed: 249 m

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- iv. To include aboveground 22kV power lines between the northern solar field and the substation, i.e. across the railway line and D3381 road
- v. Relaxation of the 200m visual buffer (condition 29 of the EA) and the 50m buffer (condition 30 of the EA) for the aboveground 22kV power lines between the northern solar field and the substation that cross the railway line and D3381 road - Updated Visual Impact Assessment already completed





Lesed North solar field

220kV power lines between the northern solar field and the substation

Substation

Images ©2019 Google Technologies

Google Earth

200m

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- vi. To show PV arrays of up to 1km in length across the south solar field and up to 1,5km in length across the north solar field, and made up of approximately 100m sections



000000 1000000

N



Lisedi South solar field



Lisedi North solar field

Image © 2019 Google

Google Earth

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROJECT

- To accommodate the temporary storage of up to 300 waste solar PV modules on site, in compliance with the 2013 National Norms and Standards for the storage of waste, as per NEM:WA Regulations (a N&S Registration application will also be lodged with the DFFE for the storage of the waste solar PV modules)



88-0000000000000000



Warehouse: storage of waste solar PV modules

Image © 2014 Microsoft Corporation

Google Earth

1995

115m

Image © 2014 Microsoft Corporation 41° 48' 33.66" S 173° 54' 59.5" E 450 0m eye 300m

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- viii. To align the authorised development footprint with the farm boundary, to accommodate the overburden storage area, and to indicate that a small borrow pit on site was not needed during the construction phase, as excess overburden was used for filling





Lesedi South solar field



Lesedi North solar field

Eskom servitude/edge of authorised development footprint

Farm boundary

Overburden stockpile

Imagery © 2019 Google

Google Earth

0.52 m

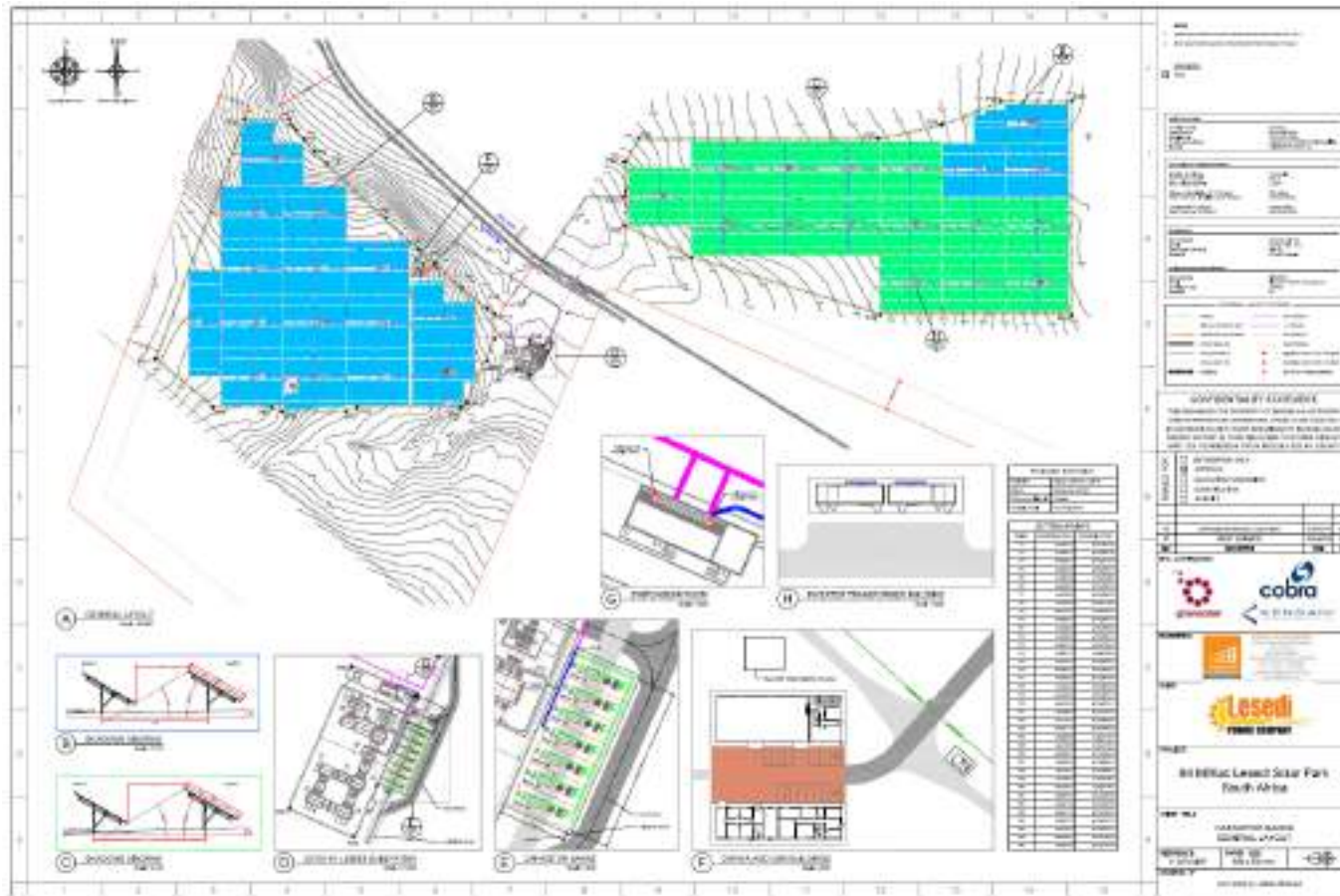
OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- ix. To indicate that the solar irradiation measuring panel (approximately 16m² in size) was in place during the feasibility stage, to collect data on the solar resource which informed the layout of the facility, but is not permanent, and was removed prior to commencement of operations (no image)
- x. To include three autonomous weather stations (aws), approximately 4m in height, for continuous monitoring of local conditions during the operational phase, and three soiling stations consisting of two PV panels each, measuring approximately 4m² in size each, to monitor and determine operational efficiencies



OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED APPLICATION

- xi. Approval of the as-built drawings and layout plans for the entire operations



PROPOSED PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE EA AMENDMENT APPLICATION

- Pre-application meeting with DFFE
- Payment of application fee (R2 000-00)
- Submission of EA Amendment Application Form to DFFE & acknowledgement of receipt by DFFE
- Circulation of Environmental Impact Report to potential and registered I&APs, organs of state and DFFE for review and commenting (at least 30 days). Public Participation process to include:
 - Site notice boards
 - Newspaper advertisement in one local newspaper
 - Circulation of Report or electronic link to the Report via email, SMS and WhatsApp
 - Placement of Report at the local library for public viewing
 - Incorporation of the EA Amendment application's information in Lesedi's existing community engagement process to be undertaken. The engagement includes nearby communities/community representatives, ward councillors, local municipalities etc.
 - No public meeting (engagement through Lesedi's existing community engagement process)
 - Comments and Responses Report and I&AP Register
- Submission of the Environmental Impact Report to DFFE within 90 days from submission of the EA Amendment Application. Report compiled in terms of Regulation 32(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations. No additional specialist studies identified. Revised VIA already completed.
- Notification to I&APs on Department's Decision: Circulation of notification letters via email, SMS and WhatsApp and the placement of a newspaper advertisement in one local newspaper.

QUESTIONS?

Chat box or hand raised

FEEDBACK FROM DFFE ON THE PROPOSED APPLICATION AND PROPOSED PROCESS TO BE FOLLOWED FOR THE EA

- Confirmation that there is no specific report template for the EA Amendment application's Environmental Impact Report
- Approval of proposed approach for the EA Amendment application, in particular the proposed public participation process
- Site visit scheduling
- Screening Tool Report and Site Sensitivity Verification Report required as no new listed activities triggered and existing development?

CONCLUSION AND CLOSE-OUT OF MEETING

Thank you for your time