



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA

DFFE Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/1/2739
Enquiries: Ms Olivia Letlalo
Telephone: 012 399 8815 E-mail: Oletlalo@dffe.gov.za

Susanna Nel and Annelize Erasmus
Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd
3 Palomino Avenue
SOMERSET WEST
7130

Cellphone Number : 082 566 4530/ 082 888 4060
Email Address : info@landscapedynamics.co.za

PER MAIL / E-MAIL

Dear Susanna and Annelize

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC 1 (PV) ON THE REMAINDER OF VLAKFONTEIN NO 15 PORTION 1 OF JACKALSFONTEIN NO 443, VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated March 2023 and received by this Competent Authority (CA) on 03 April 2023, refers.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included to the final BAR:

Application form and Listed Activities

- It has been noted that the exclusions on the triggered listed activities applied for are not included. Therefore, you are advised to include in the amended application form as well as final BAR all the relevant exclusions related to the listed activities applied for. For instance, activity 11 of Listing Notice (LN) 1 has been applied for, however the exclusions have not been quoted in the application form.
- For both Activities 12 and 19 of LN 1, it is noted that the description provided is that "*an old drainage line in the southern block of the PV plan will be developed with PV infrastructure and internal roads.*" Therefore, you are requested to indicate the physical footprint in square meters (for activity 12) and cubic meters to be dredged, excavated, and removed (for activity 19) or remove these listed activities in the amended application form and final BAR, if not triggered.
- For activity 11 of LN1, main activities (i) and (ii) have been included in the application form and DBAR. Please ensure that the revised application form and final BAR indicate only the applicable main and sub-activity triggered by the proposed development.
- For activity 12 of LN 1, main activities (i) and (ii) and sub activities (a), (b) and (c) have been included in the application form and DBAR. Please ensure that the revised application form and final BAR indicate only the applicable main activity and sub activity/ies triggered by the proposed development.
- For activities 24 and 28 of LN1, main activities (i) and (ii) have been included in the application form and DBAR. Please ensure that the revised application form and final BAR indicate only the applicable main activity.

- It has been noted that activity 1(a) on LN 2 has been applied for and activity 24 of LN 1, due to the site located within the urban area, however, activity 24 of LN 1 has exclusion where the entire road falls within an urban area. Therefore, you are advised to consider all applicable listed activities, sub-activities and its exclusion and ensure relevant listed activities are applied for in the amended application form and final BAR. In addition, please clarify how is activity 24 of LN 1 triggered by the proposed development.
- It has been noted that the word “**could and should**” have been used in the description of activity 15 of LN 2 and activity 10 of LN 3. Please refrain from using such word, since it creates an uncertainty regarding the applicability of the listed activity applied for, for the proposed development.
- According to the LN 3 activities 4, 10, 14 and 18 applied for, the proposed development is located 1.2km from the Protected Area National Park and Nature Reserve (Mispah Game Farm). You are required to provide proof of approval in terms of Section 50 of NEM: PAA from the relevant management authority of such protected area.
- Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description. In addition, the onus is on the applicant and the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure that all the applicable listed activities are included in the application and the final BAR. Failure to do so may result in unnecessary delays in the processing of the application.
- If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final BAR, an amended application form must be submitted for final review and decision making. Please note that the Department's has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>

Alternatives

- It has been noted on page iii of the draft BAR that the Solid-State Batteries (SSB) is the preferred Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that will be constructed on approximately 4.5ha. However, it is unclear if the BESS will come to site preassembled or not. Please provide clarity with regard to the above concern in the final BAR.
- Please note that Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(x) of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended, requires that “if no alternatives, including alternative locations for the activity were investigated, the motivation for not considering such” must be included in the BAR. You are therefore required to provide a motivation should other alternative sites, routes, layouts, and technologies not be considered.
- A description of the process followed to reach the preferred alternative within the site as per Appendix 1(3)(1)(h)(i) of the EIA Regulations (2014), as amended, must be incorporated into the final BAR.

Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- The CA acknowledge the inclusion of Environmental Sensitivity map in Appendix B of the draft BAR. However, you are advised to submit a layout map that indicates the following (but not limited to the below). Please ensure the findings of the specialists advise what needs to be incorporated in the development layout.
 - The the PV development area.
 - Position of all infrastructure e.g., BESS, on-site substation and their coordinates.
 - Permanent laydown area footprint.
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g., roads (existing and proposed).
 - Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network.
 - All existing infrastructure on the site.
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g., CBAs, ESAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected.
 - Buffer areas of the above sensitive areas; and
 - All “no-go” areas.
- Please ensure that the above map has a clear legend that communicate with details of the map.

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- The above map must be overlain with a sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows the proposed Solar PV development as well as neighbouring renewable energy developments.
- Images and Google maps will not be accepted for decision-making purposes.

Specialist Assessments

- According to the screening report, the Aquatic Biodiversity theme, Landscape theme and Terrestrial Biodiversity theme are rated as **very high** sensitivity, Agriculture theme, and Paleontology theme are rated as **high** sensitivity. Animal Species theme, and Plant Species theme have **medium** sensitivity, whereas Archaeological and Cultural Heritage theme, Avian theme, Civil Aviation theme, Defence theme, and RFI theme, all have **low** sensitivity. Therefore, you are advised to submit a site verification report and motivation for the exclusions of any specialist studies identified by the screening tool.
- It is brought to your attention that Procedures for the Assessment and Minimum Criteria for Reporting on identified Environmental Themes in terms of Sections 24(5)(a) and (h) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998, when applying for Environmental Authorisation, which were published in Government Notice No. 320 of 20 March 2020 (i.e., "the Protocols"), and in Government Notice No. 1150 of 30 October 2020, have come into effect. Please note that specialist assessments must be conducted in accordance with these protocols unless proof is provided to demonstrate that the specialist assessments were commissioned prior to 50 days after the promulgation of GN 320 and after promulgation of GN1150 (30 October 2020).
- In addition to the above, you are hereby drawn to the following:
 - The Specialist Declaration of interest forms must be attached for all specialist studies to be conducted in the final BAR. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).
 - Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as indicate the locations and descriptions of proposed rehabilitation, and all other proposed structures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
 - Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
 - Please note further that the protocols require certain specialists' to be registered with SACNASP. Refer to the relevant protocols in this regard.
 - Please include a table in the final BAR summarising the specialist studies required by the Screening Tool, a column indicating whether these studies will be conducted or not, and motivation if any study will not be undertaken. Please note that if any of the specialists' studies and requirements recommended in the Department's Screening Tool are not commissioned, motivation for such must be provided in the report, as per the requirements of the Protocols.
 - Please also ensure that the final BAR includes the Site Verification Report as required by the relevant environmental themes and assessments.
 - Should it be determined that there is a need for additional specialist studies to be undertaken based on the outcome of public participation, these must be commissioned and be included in the final BAR reports for public comment.

Participation Process

- Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the final BAR. This includes but not limited to the Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE): Protected Areas Planning and Management Effectiveness Directorate, Biodiversity Planning and Conservation (BCAdmin@environment.gov.za); Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), South African Civil Aviation Authority, Endangered Wildlife Trust, Birdlife South Africa, Department of Human Settlement, Water and

Sanitation, South African National Defence Force, Local interest groups, for example: Councillors and Rate Payers associations; Surrounding landowners, Farmer Organisations, Environmental Groups and NGOs; and Grassroots communities and structures as well as the affected district and local municipalities.

- Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final BAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof must be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulations 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended and the approved Public Participation Plan.
- The comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final BAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- Please ensure that all issues raised, and comments received during the circulation of the BAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction (including this Department's comments) in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed. Comments made by I&APs must be comprehensively captured (copy verbatim if required) and responded to clearly and fully. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.

Cumulative Impact

- It has been noted on page i of the draft BAR that, the Vlaktefontein Solar PV 1 is part of the Mercury Solar PV Cluster EA application submitted to the CA within the geographic area of investigation. Further to this it is indicated on page 96 and 101 of the draft BAR that, "there are currently three approved renewable energy projects within a 30km radius around the proposed Mercury Solar PV Cluster", therefore, the cumulative impact assessment for all identified and assessed impacts must be refined to indicate the following:
 - Assess the cumulative impacts of the proposed (not yet authorised), authorised (not yet constructed) and existing solar energy facilities.
 - Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

Environmental Management Programme (EMPr)

- A 132kV IPP substation is being mentioned as part of the infrastructure to form part of the proposed development in activity 11 of Listing Notice 1. Therefore, ensure that the generic EMPr that complies with the GN 435 of March 2022 is submitted in the final report.
- The Department acknowledges that generic EMPrs for the substation has been submitted as part of the DBAR, however, Part B: Section 2 is not signed. Therefore, you are advised to submit the signed generic EMPr with the final BAR.
- The EMPr that complies with Appendix 4 of the EIA Regulations, as amended, for the facility must be submitted with the final report and must include all recommendations and mitigation measures recorded in the BAR and the specialist studies conducted.
- The EMPr must distinguish between impact management actions and impact management outcomes as per Appendix 4(1)(1)(d) & (f) of the EIA Regulations 2014 (as amended).
- The EMPr must not contain any ambiguity. Where applicable, statements containing the word "should" or "may" are to be amended to "must".

General

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 19(1)(a) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states that: Where basic assessment must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority -

(a) a basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports, an EMPr, and where applicable a closure plan, which have been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority."

Should there be significant changes or new information that has been added to the BAR or EMPr which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process, you are required to comply with Regulation 19(b) of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, which states: "the applicant must, within 90 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority – (b) a notification in writing that the basic assessment report, inclusive of specialist reports an EMPr, and where applicable, a closure plan, will be submitted within 140 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, as significant changes have been made or significant new information has been added to the basic assessment report or EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan, which changes or information was not contained in the reports or plans consulted on during the initial public participation process contemplated in sub-regulation (1)(a) and that the revised reports or, EMPr or, where applicable, a closure plan will be subjected to another public participation process of at least 30 days".

Should you fail to meet any of the timeframes stipulated in Regulation 19 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended, your application will lapse.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours sincerely



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Signed by: Ms Olivia Letlalo

Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 05/05/2023

cc:	Mr Warren Morse	Vlakfontein Solar PV1 (Pty) Ltd	Tel: 021 685 3240 Cell: 083 760 9586	Email: warren@mulilo.com
	Ms Grace Mkhosana	Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA)	Tel: 051 400 4812/7 Cell: 082 789 4611	Email: mkhosana@destea.gov.za
	MManager Mncedisi Simon Mqwathi care of Seithathi Monyaki (Acting).	Moghaka Local Municipality (LM)	Tel: 056 216 9125 / 9377 / 9378	Email: mms@moqhaka.gov.za

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Annexure 1

1. Format for Comments and Response Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP,	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/03/2021 Email Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: National Infrastructure Projects (Joe Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted) The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

Landscape Dynamics

From: Kamogelo Mathetja <KMathetja@dffe.gov.za>
Sent: Thursday, 13 April 2023 3:49 PM
To: info@landscapedynamics.co.za
Cc: Mashudu Mudau; Portia Makitla
Subject: Re: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJOENSKROON

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms M Mudau (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.

Please note: 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

Regards,
Kamogelo

From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 9:57 PM
To: BC Admin <bcadmin@dffe.gov.za>; Rofhiwa Magodi <RMagodi@dffe.gov.za>; mphapangm@destea.gov.za; mpmphapang@gmail.com; ntilit@dwa.gov.za; lenongP@dws.gov.za; letloenyane@dws.gov.za; mahlael@dws.gov.za; kumaloz@dws.gov.za; maseloanek@dws.gov.za; musekenen2@dws.gov.za; baloitg@dws.gov.za; LydiaB@daff.gov.za; info@dalrrd.gov.za; DLUSM@DAFF.gov.za; petuniam@daff.gov.za; mokonet@dard.gov.za; Ramklowni@nra.co.za; mabason@nra.co.za; fsroadplanning@gmail.com; Kagisho.mokae@energy.gov.za; Kagisho.Mokae@dmre.gov.za; Wayleave@eskom.co.za; BokweTT@eskom.co.za; MuswubMD@eskom.co.za; john.geeringh@eskom.co.za; GeerinJH@eskom.co.za; khanyeN@eskom.co.za; vSchalkG@eskom.co.za
Cc: Susanna Nel <susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za>; Megan Grobler <megan@landscapedynamics.co.za>; Lloyd Barnes <lloyd@mulilo.com>
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJOENSKROON

For attention:

Government Departments and Institutions (1 of 2)

National Department of Environmental Affairs, Fisheries and Forestry: The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation, for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

DFFE : Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation: Protected Areas

Department of Economic , Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), Head of Communications Environmental Impact Assessment; Mr Mojalefa Mphapang

Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State: Provincial Head, Dr Tseliso Ntili, Care of the Executive Senior Secretary to the Provincial Head, Mr Pule Lenong

Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State Provincial Office; care of the Water Use Licensing Unit (Middle Vaal Catchment), the Director- General Ms T Baloi

Landscape Dynamics

From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Friday, 12 May 2023 1:35 PM
To: 'Kamogelo Mathetja'
Cc: 'Mashudu Mudau'; 'Portia Makitla'
Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJJOENSKROON

Dear Mashudu and Portia

Our communication below refers. Kindly note that we have not yet received comment on the three applications referred to in the subject line.

The date for final comment was 10 May, so we just want to know if we are still going to receive any comment from your side for inclusion in the Final BAR which will be submitted on Tuesday 16 May 2022.

Kind regards

Annelize Erasmus
Reg. EAP (EAPASA)



Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

Central e-mail : info@landscapedynamics.co.za
Pretoria Office : A. Erasmus, Tel 082 566 4530 / annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za
Cape Town Office : S. Nel, Tel 082 888 4060 / susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za

Website Address : www.landscapedynamics.co.za



From: Kamogelo Mathetja [mailto:KMathetja@dffe.gov.za]
Sent: Thursday, 13 April 2023 3:49 PM
To: info@landscapedynamics.co.za
Cc: Mashudu Mudau; Portia Makitla
Subject: Re: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJJOENSKROON

Dear Sir/Madam

DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the project mentioned on the subject line. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Mrs P Makitla and Ms M Mudau (Both copied on this email). In addition, kindly share the shapefiles of the development footprints/application site with the Case Officers.



Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 21029

Date: Thursday May 04, 2023
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(4) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd was appointed by Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd to obtain Environmental Authorisation for the Mercury Cluster Solar PV Project and associated gridline infrastructure. The project will involve the development of five Photo Voltaic (PV) solar facilities on privately owned land in the vicinity of Viljoenskroon in the Free State Province, together with associated grid connections (power lines) to connect the solar farms to the existing Mercury Transmission Substation (MTS).

Vlakfontein Solar PV1 (Pty) Ltd appointed Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the construction of the 100MW Vlakfontein Solar PV1 project on the Portion 1 of Jackalsfontein No 443 and the Remainder of Vlakfontein Nr 15, near Viljoenskroon in the Mqohaka Local Municipality, Free State Province.

The Draft Basic Assessment Report has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). The extent of the development area is approximately 151 hectares (ha).

CTS Heritage was appointed to provide heritage specialist input as required by section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA).

Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Screener: Proposed development of the Mercury Solar PV Cluster near Orkney in the Free State

Archaeological sites spanning the Earlier, Middle and Later Stone Age have been found in the region despite the extensive agricultural transformation of the area. There are Middle to Later Stone Age artefacts located within the region. The development region is underlain by the underlain by Quaternary deposits and the Malmani subgroup along with the Allanridge Formation. It is therefore recommended that an archaeological and palaeontological assessment of the proposed development area be undertaken.

Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment In Terms Of Section 38(8) Of The NHRA For The Proposed



an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Mercury Solar PV Cluster (North and South) near Orkney in the Free State

Isolated individual artefacts along with a site of a small concentration of artefacts were documented within the development footprint along with one isolated historic burial and a historic burial ground. It is extremely unlikely that fossils would be preserved in the overlying deep soils and sands of the Quaternary. In the northernmost section (Kleinfontein PV1 only north of the grid connection), there is a very small chance that fossils may occur in the shales below ground of the early Permian Vryheid Formation. The impact on the palaeontological heritage would be low, therefore, as far as the palaeontological is concerned, the projects should be authorised.

Lavin, J. 2022. Archaeological Specialist Study In Terms Of Section 38(8) Of The NHRA For A Proposed The Mercury Solar PV Cluster And Associated Grid Connection Infrastructure Near Orkney In The Free State

Six heritage resources were identified with the development footprint and three of those are of scientific value. Sites VK1 – VK3 are out of context individual artefacts and Site CVK100 along with CVK 101 are historic burial sites. Sites VK4 is a LSA site that consists of surface finds in addition to a possibility of insitu deposits in a dateable context. All of these are located outside of the Vlakfontein Solar PV1 area and will not be affected by the development.

Recommendations

- A no development buffer of 20m must be implemented around site VK4.
- A no-development buffer of 40m is recommended around the isolated burial (CVK100) and a no-development buffer of 100m is recommended around the burial ground (CVK101) to ensure that no impact takes place and that the sense of place associated with the burials is retained.
- Ongoing community access to these burials, as well as their conservation into the future, must be ensured. This can be managed through the development of a Heritage Management Plan for the burials to be implemented for the duration of the project.
- A pre-construction archaeological walkdown is recommended to identify any unmarked or hidden burials or significant archaeological resources within the development area.
- Should any buried archaeological resources or human remains or burials be uncovered during the course of development activities, work must cease in the vicinity of these finds. The South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) must be contacted immediately in order to determine an appropriate way forward.

Proposed development of the Mercury Solar PV Cluster for Vlakfontein Solar PV1 near Orkney

Our Ref: 21029



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Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 21029

Date: Thursday May 04, 2023
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Bamford, M. 2022. Desktop Study: Palaeontological Impact Assessment The Proposed Mercury PV Cluster And Grid Connection, Viljoenskroon, Free State Province

The proposed development area is underlain by Quaternary sands and alluvium the northernmost part of Zaaiplaats PV 1 and Biesiesfontein PV 1 are on very highly sensitive rocks of the Vryheid Formatio, however the study area has been disturbed by agricultural activities. A Fossil Chance Find Protocol should be added to the EMPr.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final BAR Report and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Development Application Unit (DAU) and the Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further conditions are recommended for the development:
- A Heritage Management Plan must be developed for the maintenance of the identified burial sites. In the event that Grave relocation is deemed feasible, the prescribed 60 days consultation process must be initiated to obtain consent for from the next of kin(s);
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Natasha Higgitt 021 202 8660) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;
- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist

**Proposed development of the Mercury Solar PV Cluster for Vlakfontein Solar
PV1 near Orkney**

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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Tel: 0212028663
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
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or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;

- The Final BAR Report and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
- The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

Sityhilelo Ngcatsha
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant
South African Heritage Resources Agency

Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/615915>

Terms & Conditions:

**Proposed development of the Mercury Solar PV Cluster for Vlakfontein Solar
PV1 near Orkney**

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Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za
CaseID: 21029

Date: Thursday May 04, 2023
Page No: 5

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.



Hannes Maree <fsroadplanning@gmail.com>

MERCURY SOLAR PV CLUSTER PROJECT: NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: VILJOENSKROON: FREE STATE

1 message

Hannes Maree <fsroadplanning@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 6, 2022 at 11:01 AM

To: info@landscapedynamics.co.za


Cc: susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za, Annelize Grobler <agrobler@landscapedynamics.co.za>, megan@landscapedynamics.co.za

Good day

Enclosed find this Department's letter dated 06 April 2022 for your attention.

Regards

Hannes Maree
Assistant Director: Land Acquisition
Department of Police, Roads and Transport
Room 119, Medfontein Building, 155 St Andrew Street
P.O. Box 119, Bloemfontein, 9300
Tel: 051 409 8606
Cell: 082 0599 725

 doc14381820220406103945.pdf
2559K



community safety, roads & transport

Department of
Community Safety, Roads & Transport
FREE STATE PROVINCE

REF: P29/4/201/P15/2
ENQ: Mr. J.P.W. Maree

The Director
Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants
91 Wenning Street
Groenkloof
PRETORIA
0181

For attention: Me. Annelize Erasmus

MERCURY SOLAR PV CLUSTER PROJECT: NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: VILJOENSKROON: FREE STATE

1. Your email dated 31 March 2023 pertaining to the above-mentioned project near Viljoenskroon refers.
2. This Department's comments that are contained in its evenly numbered letter dated 06 April 2022 (copy attached for easy reference) remain relevant and applicable.
3. In addition to the comments that are contained in the above mentioned letter, it is also necessary that a traffic impact study, compiled by a professional traffic engineer who is registered with ECSA, be submitted for review and comment. The traffic impact study will determine the extent of the effect of the development on the provincial road network and the access requirements. Department's final comments will only be submitted once the traffic impact study has been reviewed.

Yours faithfully


DIRECTOR: ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Date:5/4/2023.....

P O Box 119, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300
Perm Building, 4th Floor, 45 Maitland Street, BLOEMFONTEIN
Tel: 082 0599 725 e-mail: fsroadplanning@gmail.com



police, roads & transport

Department of
Police, Roads and Transport
FREE STATE PROVINCE

REF: P29/4/201/P15/2

ENQ: Mr. J.P.W. Maree

The Director
Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants
91 Wenning Street
Groenkloof
PRETORIA
0181

For attention: Me. Susanna Nel

MERCURY SOLAR PV CLUSTER PROJECT: NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE: VILJOENSKROON: FREE STATE

1. Your email dated 30 March 2022 pertaining to the above-mentioned project near Viljoenskroon refers.
2. The following provincial roads are affected by the above-mentioned project (refer to the enclosed plan):
 - 2.1 100MW Vlakfontein Solar PV1:
 - (i) Secondary road S643 (statutory road reserve width of 25 meters); and
 - (ii) Tertiary road T3762 (statutory road reserve width of 16 meters).
 - 2.2 100MW Biesiefontein Solar PV1:
 - (i) Tertiary road T3762 (statutory road reserve width of 16 meters).
 - 2.3 100MW Kleinfontein Solar PV1
 - (i) Tertiary roads T3762 and T4388 (statutory road reserve width of 16 meters).
 - 2.4 100MW Zaaiplaats Solar PV1
 - (i) Secondary road S729 (statutory road reserve width of 25 meters).

Directorate Road Asset Management Systems

P O Box 119, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300
Medfontein Building, 1st Floor, St Andrew Street, BLOEMFONTEIN
Cell: 082 0599725 e-mail: fsroadplanning@gmail.com

file

2.5 100MW Homah Solar PV1

- (i) Primary road P15/2 (statutory road reserve width of 32 meters); and
- (ii) Secondary road S1294 (statutory road reserve width of 25 meters).

2.6 100MW Ratpan Solar PV1 and 75MW Ratpan Solar PV2

- (i) Primary road P15/2 (statutory road reserve width of 32 meters); and
- (ii) Secondary road S642 (statutory road reserve width of 25 meters).

3. This Department supports the above-mentioned solar PV cluster project subject to the following conditions:

- 3.1 No structures must be erected within 95,0 metres measured from the centre line of the provincial road listed in the above-mentioned paragraph 2 without the written approval issued by this Department for the relaxation of the building line (structures include any overhead power line that will be erected parallel with or across the alignment of a provincial road). The building line is imposed in terms of the provisions of sections 9 and 9A of the Advertising on Roads and Ribbon Development Act, 1940 (Act no. 1 of 1940).
- 3.2 Due to the vague information that is currently available, this Department will only be able to consider and approve any specific access/es on receipt of a completed application and drawing that shows the geometric layout and exact locality of the access/es. An application form for the above-mentioned purpose is attached hereto. The application for the access/es will thus be considered once the formal application for an access/es is submitted to this Department.
- 3.3 The condition of the provincial gravel roads (secondary roads S642, S643, S729, S1294 and tertiary roads T3762 and T4388), is not in a good condition. The increase in traffic during the construction phase of the proposed development will require more intense routine maintenance and certain sections will have to be re-graveled. Mulilo Renewable Project Developments (Pty) Ltd will therefore be required to carry out such maintenance at their expenditure.
- 3.4 No provincial borrow pits may be utilized for construction of the development of the facilities. This Department must therefore be contacted to indicate the positions of the provincial borrow pits (There are no provincial borrow pits on the properties affected by the Mercury Solar PV Cluster Project).
- 3.5 Applications for way leave for any other operations, such as power lines, within the 95,0m measured from the centre line of the provincial roads, must be submitted to this Department on the similar application form that is referred to in paragraph 3.2 of this letter.

4. Any enquiries pertaining to the contents of this letter can be addressed to this Department's Mr. J.P.W. Maree at Cell. No. 0820599725 or e-mail fsroadplanning@gmail.com.

Yours faithfully


DIRECTOR: ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Date: 6/4/2022





police, roads and transport
 Department of
 Police, Roads and Transport
 FREE STATE PROVINCE

WAY LEAVE / ENCROACHMENT APPLICATION

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE ROADS AND RIBBON DEVELOPMENT ACT 194, (ACT 21 OF 1941) AND THE
 ROADS ORDINANCE 1968 (ORDINANCE 4 OF 1968) TO ENCROACH ON THE PROVINCIAL ROAD RESERVE
 BOUNDARIES OR WITHIN THE BUILDING RESTRICTION AREA

SERVICE OWNER:	APPLICANT:
Address:	Address:
Contact Person:	Contact Person
Telephone Numbers Office: Cell: Facimilee: e-mail:	Telephone Numbers Office: Cell: Facimilee: e-mail:

1. PURPOSE OF APPLICATION *(Mark with X)*

1. To install a new utility service	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. To extent an existing utility service	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. To maintain/repair, replace an existing utility service	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. To apply for and access	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. To perform other operations	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Application for the relaxation of the building line	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. DETAILS OF APPLICATION AND LOCALITY

FULLY DESCRIBE THE EXTENT OF THE SERVICE AND/OR WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE ROAD RESERVE OR BUILDING RESTRICTION AREA AND CLEARLY INDICATE THE LOCATION RELATIVE TO THE KM MARKERS (if any) OR THE START- / END POINT OF THE ROAD. KINDLY COMPLETE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION BELOW AND ATTACHED A LOCALITY PLAN (SCALE 1: 100 000)

ROUTE NUMBER

ROAD NUMBER

DESTINATIONS: From to

LOCATION FROM THE START- / END POINT OF ROAD (underline the applicable point of orientation)

OR

LOCATION BETWEEN- / AT KILOMETER MARKER AND

3. DESCRIPTION

.....

.....

.....

4. GENERAL INFORMATION (Mark with X)

KINDLY SUBMIT 3 COPIES OF SIZE A2 LAYOUT DRAWINGS WITH THIS APPLICATION THAT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR ANY OVERHEAD / UNDERGROUND UTILITY SERVICES : LOCALITY PLAN (Scale 1 : 100000), TERRAIN LAYOUT (Scale 1 : 500) ,CROSS-SECTIONAL DIAGRAMS (Scale 1 : 50) AND OTHER DETAILS (Scale 1 : 10 - Scale 1 : 25). THE DRAWINGS MUST CONTAIN SUFFICIENT DIMENSIONS TO SHOW THE PLACEMENT OF THE SERVICES WITHIN AND /OR OUTSIDE THE ROAD RESERVE. THE DEPARTMENT MAY REQUIRE ANY OTHER SPECIAL DRAWINGS FOR THE ATTACHMENT OF SERVICES TO BRIDGE STRUCTURES AND GEOMETRIC LAYOUT DRAWINGS FOR ACCESSES

WATER SEWER GAS ELECTRICITY TELECOMMUNICATION ACCESS
 OTHER (Specify)

SERVICE TYPE:

Crossing Overhead	Crossing Underground
Parallel Overhead	Parallel Underground

CONSTRUCTION METHOD:

Excavation	Auger Drilling	Pipe Jacking
Attachment	Other	(Specify)

5. DETAILS OF SERVICE PARRALLEL TO PROVINCIAL ROAD

From Km	To Km	Distance within <input type="checkbox"/> / outside <input type="checkbox"/> Road Reserve Boundary	Buried <input type="checkbox"/> Depth (m)	Overhead <input type="checkbox"/> Height (m)

6. DETAILS OF SERVICE THAT CROSSES THE PROVINCIAL ROAD

THROUGH OR ABOVE ROAD PAVEMENT				THROUGH CULVERT		
Kilometer Point	Buried <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead <input type="checkbox"/>		Distance of structures from the centerline of the road	Size, Type & Class of sleeve / duct	Number of cells, Type and Cross-Sectional Area of stormwater structure	Cross-Sectional Area of the service / sleeve
	Depth or height in meters (m) below or above	Service Type & Size				
		Telecom Cable				
		Power Cable				
	Pipe line					

7. SERVICE ATTACHED TO BRIDGE- / CULVERT STRUCTURES

Kilometer Point	Bridge- / Culvert Number	Name of Bridge / River / Sprout

8. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Your Reference:	Your Drawing No's:
-----------------------	--------------------------

9. DECLARATION BY SERVICE OWNER / REPRESENTATIVE

I ACCEPT ALL CONDITIONS IMPOSED IN TERMS OF ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE, ROADS AND TRANSPORT OF THE FREE STATE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, CHIEF DIRECTORATE ROADS
 I AM AUTHORISED TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE SERVICE OWNER

..... PRINT NAME SIGNATURE DATE
---------------------	--------------------	---------------

10. COMPLETED FORM, LETTERS AND ATTACHMENTS TO BE RETURN TO

POSTAL ADDRESS

THE DIRECTOR : ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
 DEPARTMENT OF POLICE ROADS AND TRANSPORT
 CHIEF DIRECTORATE ROADS
 P.O. BOX 119
 ROOM 119 or ROOM 113
 MEDFONTEIN BUILDING
 BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

THE DIRECTOR : ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
 DEPARTMENT OF POLICE ROADS AND TRANSPORT
 CHIEF DIRECTORATE ROADS
 ROOM 119 or ROOM 113
 MEDFONTEIN BUILDING
 152 ST ANDREW STREET
 BLOEMFONTEIN, 9301
 TEL: (051) 409 8606 or 082 0599 725

FOR ATTENTION

THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
 ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS DIRECTORATE
 TEL: +27(51) 409 8606
 CELL: 082 0599 725
 E-MAIL: fsroadplanning@gmail.com

11. FOR OFFICIAL USE

COMPLETION DATE	FILE REFERENCE
.....
SIGNATURE CHIEF ENGINEER: PLANNING	DATE APPROVED

Landscape Dynamics

From: Carlo Geel <CGeel@Harmony.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 April 2023 8:44 AM
To: Landscape Dynamics
Cc: 'Susanna Nel'; 'Megan Grobler'; Strohl@caa.co.za; ShogoleE@caa.co.za
Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJJOENSKROON and others

All Good. Thank you for the feedback.

Carlo Geel
Environmental Manager
Harmony (North – West Operations)
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited
T: +27 (0)18 478 4009
C: +27 (0) 83 596 6741/ +27 (0) 73 379 4221
Email: CGeel@Harmony.co.za
www.harmony.co.za
Vuvuzela Anonymous Hotline 0800 204 256



At Harmony we are all part of the Thibakotsi journey.

SAFETY comes first. To achieve our goal of zero-harm, we lead with **HONESTY** and **ACCOUNTABILITY**, staying **CONNECTED** to each other. By living these values and arriving at work engaged, energised and with a duty to care for myself and those around me – we will **ACHIEVE** our goals.



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From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:24 AM

To: Carlo Geel <CGeel@Harmony.co.za>

Cc: 'Susanna Nel' <susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za>; 'Megan Grobler' <megan@landscapedynamics.co.za>; StrohL@caa.co.za; ShogoleE@caa.co.za

Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON and others

This Message originated outside your organization.

Dear Ms Geel

Thank you for the information. At this stage we believe that the solar facilities planned will not impact negatively on this Gliding Club, due to the nature of the solar facility structures and the nearest distance to the development area being approximately 8km southeast of the gliding club – see Google Earth image attached hereto. The powerlines (grid connection) associated with the solar cluster are 132kV lines and all connect to the very nearby existing Mercury MTS - numerous 132kV and 400kV powerline already traverse the macro area.

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Ms Lizell Stroh (Inspector: Obstacles (Solar and Windfarms) and Ms Evelyn Shogole (Environmental Specialist) who deals with obstacles have also been CC'd on this email and their response if any will be communicated with yourself.

Kind regards

Annelize Erasmus

Reg. EAP (EAPASA)



Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

Central e-mail : info@landscapedynamics.co.za

Pretoria Office : A. Erasmus, Tel 082 566 4530 / annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za / agrobler@landscapedynamics.co.za

Cape Town Office : S. Nel, Tel 082 888 4060 / susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za

Website Address : www.landscapedynamics.co.za



From: Carlo Geel [<mailto:CGeel@Harmony.co.za>]

Sent: Monday, 17 April 2023 1:16 PM

To: Landscape Dynamics

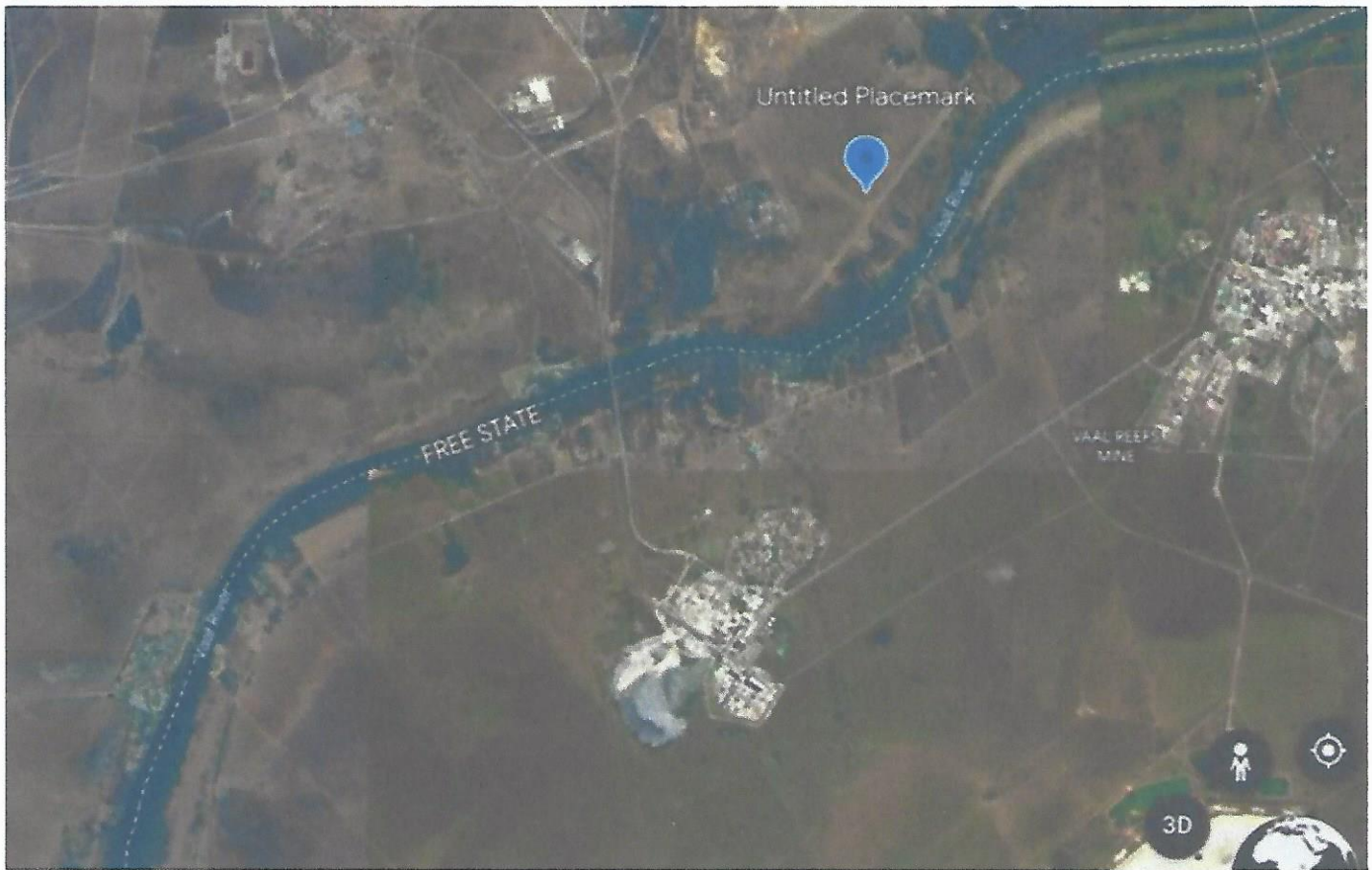
Cc: 'Susanna Nel'; 'Megan Grobler'

Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON and others

Good day.

The Gliding Club is on the Vaal Reefs (North West Province) side of the Vaal River.

It probably will have no impact on the projects, but for consideration. See below from Google Earth.



Carlo Geel
Environmental Manager
Harmony (North – West Operations)
Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited
T: +27 (0)18 478 4009
C: +27 (0) 83 596 6741/ +27 (0) 73 379 4221
Email: CGeel@Harmony.co.za
www.harmony.co.za
Vuvuzela Anonymous Hotline 0800 204 256



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From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 12:06 PM

To: Carlo Geel <CGeel@Harmony.co.za>

Cc: 'Susanna Nel' <susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za>; 'Megan Grobler' <megan@landscapedynamics.co.za>

Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON and others

This Message originated outside your organization.

Dear Carlo

Thank you for your comment. It will be addressed and included in the Final Basic Assessment Report to be submitted to the DFFE for approval.

Do you have any more information on the gridding club referred to and/or the location thereof?

Kind regards

Annelize Erasmus

Reg. EAP (EAPASA)



Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

Central e-mail : info@landscapedynamics.co.za

Pretoria Office : A. Erasmus, Tel 082 566 4530 / annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za / agrobler@landscapedynamics.co.za

Cape Town Office : S. Nel, Tel 082 888 4060 / susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za

Website Address : www.landscapedynamics.co.za



From: Carlo Geel [<mailto:CGeel@Harmony.co.za>]

Sent: Monday, 17 April 2023 10:01 AM

To: Landscape Dynamics

Cc: Susanna Nel; Megan Grobler; Lloyd Barnes

Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON and others

Importance: High

Good day

Refer to the proposed PV projects and consequently long terms activities.

For the proposed PV cluster, please consider the following:

- 1) make sure about firebreak/ firefighting arrangements (engage with neighboring farmers/ land owners)
- 2) make sure about informing affected communities
- 3) engage timeously with the local authority regarding authorized general waste disposal and potable water supply
- 4) plan for the ultimate disposal of hazardous waste/ material e.g., batteries and solar panels
- 5) ensure effective security arrangements (the area have a lot of illegal mining activities)
- 6) plan/ ensure for dust mitigation and preferably fall-out dust monitoring (solar farms expose a lot of unprotected land).
- 7) ensure a complaints registers/ reporting system
- 8) effectively assess/geology the land, as the planned areas might be prone to sinkhole formations (dolomitic areas)
- 9) Consider the impact on the gridding club near the Vaal River, if any.

Kind Regards

Carlo Geel

Environmental Manager

Harmony (North – West Operations)

Harmony Gold Mining Company Limited

T: +27 (0)18 478 4009

C: +27 (0) 83 596 6741/ +27 (0) 73 379 4221

Email: CGeel@Harmony.co.za

www.harmony.co.za

Vuvuzela Anonymous Hotline 0800 204 256



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From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>

Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 10:13 PM

Cc: Susanna Nel <susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za>; Megan Grobler <megan@landscapedynamics.co.za>; Lloyd Barnes <lloyd@mulilo.com>

Subject: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON

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water & sanitation

Department
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Z Mathiso
Telephone: 051 405 9000
Reference: 16/2/7/C702/D8/4

Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants
53 Private Bag
X21 Howard Place
7450

For Attention: Annelize Erasmus

CONSULTATION WITH REGARDS TO A BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SOLAR FACILITY IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WASTE ACT, 2008 IN RESPECT OF LISTED ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED BY APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE MINERAL AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2002 (MPRDA) AS AMENDED IN RESPECT OF PORTION 1 OF JACKALSFONTEIN NO 443 AND THE REMAINDER OF VLAKFONTEIN Nr 15 IN THE DISTRICT OF VILJOENSKROON IN THE FREE STATE PROVINCE.

APPLICANT: Vlakfontein Solar PV1

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has assessed the submitted Basic Assessment Report for the proposed development of a solar facility at farms near Viljoenskroon.

- It is noted that the applicant is proposing the development of a Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure of up to 100MW over a total area of approximately 151 hectares.
- The applicant should clearly state the volumes of water that will be required for the facility, especially when applying for water use authorization. However, it is noted that the water that will be used for the project will be sourced from boreholes.
- The applicant is requested to note that the following water uses should be registered with the DWS.
 - (a) *taking water from a water resource;*
 - (c) *impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse;*
 - (g) *disposing of waste in a manner which may detrimentally impact on a water resource;*
 - (i) *altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse;*
- Water uses may be generally authorized or a full Water Use License Application may be required. Since the project area is located near a farm; water use authorization that may already be in place on the property for the purposes of irrigation does not necessarily apply to water usage for a solar facility.
- No water may be discharged into a resource without the DWS knowledge even if it is clean. Therefore, the applicant should apply for section 21(f) of the National Water Act, Act 36 of

1998; for water that may be released into a water course after all the suspended solids have been removed.

- The applicant should ensure that the water to be used for dust suppression is not polluted and does not pollute the environment.
- It is noted that the applicant will ensure that water to be used in any process at the facility is recycled as far as practicable, to promote water conservation.
- In relation to the portable toilets and other hazardous chemical substances on the site: Sanitary conveniences, fuel depots, reservoir or depots for any substance which causes or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource should not be located within 100 metres or within 1:50 year flood-line of any watercourse or estuary.
- All waste on the site should be managed in accordance with the National Environmental Management Waste Act 2008.
- Every commitment proposed in the different sections of the report must be implemented, and any deviations thereof must be reported to the DWS. Additionally, no water use should commence without any/necessary authorisation.

In conclusion it is recommend that the applicant should, at all times, take note of the pollution control provisions of the Section 19 (1) of the National Water Act 1998, which states that:

19 (1) An owner of land, a person in control of land or a person who occupies or uses the land on which –

(a) any activity or process is or performed or undertaken; or

(b) any other situation exists which causes, has caused or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource, must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution of a water resource, from occurring, continuing, or recurring.

It is noted that the applicant will inform the DWS of any incidents that are likely to have a pollution impact on water resources in relation to the proposed activity, within 24 hours of the occurrence of such incidents.

For further enquiries kindly contact Ms Z Mathiso by email on mathisoz@dws.gov.za or by telephone on 0514059000.

Regards


Dr T Ntini
PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE

DATE: 

Landscape Dynamics

From: Lenong Pule (BFN) <LenongP@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 7:33 AM
To: Musekene Nkhumeleni
Cc: Maseloane Kereemang; Kumalo Zodwa(BFN); Letloenyane Maureen (BFN); Lenong Pule (BFN); Mahlae Lahliwe (BFN); info@landscapedynamics.co.za
Subject: FW: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJJOENSKROON
Attachments: Kleinfontein Solar PV1 Executive Summary of the Draft BAR.pdf; Vlakfontein Solar PV1 Executive Summary of the Draft BAR.pdf; Zaaiplaats Solar PV1 Executive Summary of the Draft BAR.pdf

Good morning my Colleagues,

Ntate Musekene, attached herewith, kindly find the email and its contents for your assistance.

&&&

Dear Annelize, on behalf of the Provincial Head of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Free State, I hereby would like to acknowledge receipt your email and its contents with kindness. The matter will receive attention.

Thanks and kind regards,

Pule Joseph Lenong (PJL)
Office of the Provincial Head
Department of Water and Sanitation
C/o Eastburger and Charlotte Maxeke Streets
Bloem Plaza Building, Second Floor
BLOEMFONTEIN
9301

051 405 9281
082 553 7206
lenongp@dws.gov.za

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NATIONAL WATER WEEK

20 - 26 MARCH

Accelerating Change

WATER IS LIFE. SANITATION IS DIGNITY.



From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 04 April 2023 21:57

To: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za; rmagodi@dffe.gov.za; mphapangm@destea.gov.za; mpmphapang@gmail.com; Ntili Tseliso (PH FS) <NtiliT@dws.gov.za>; Lenong Pule (BFN) <LenongP@dws.gov.za>; Letloenyane Maureen (BFN) <LetloenyaneM@dws.gov.za>; Mahlae Lahliwe (BFN) <MahlaeL@dws.gov.za>; Kumalo Zodwa (BFN) <KumaloZ@dws.gov.za>; Maseloane Kereemang <MaseloaneK@dws.gov.za>; Musekene Nkhumeleni <MusekeneN2@dws.gov.za>; Baloi Tsakane <BaloiTg@dws.gov.za>; LydiaB@daff.gov.za; info@dalrrd.gov.za; DLUSM@DAFF.gov.za; petuniam@daff.gov.za; mokonet@dard.gov.za; Ramklowni@nra.co.za; mabason@nra.co.za; fsroadplanning@gmail.com; Kagisho.mokae@energy.gov.za; Kagisho.Mokae@dmre.gov.za; Wayleave@eskom.co.za; BokweTT@eskom.co.za; MuswubMD@eskom.co.za; john.geeringh@eskom.co.za; GeerinJH@eskom.co.za; khanyeN@eskom.co.za; vSchalkG@eskom.co.za
Cc: Susanna Nel <susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za>; Megan Grobler <megan@landscapedynamics.co.za>; Lloyd Barnes <lloyd@mulilo.com>
Subject: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON

For attention:

Government Departments and Institutions (1 of 2)

National Department of Environmental Affairs, Fisheries and Forestry: The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation, for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota

DFFE : Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation: Protected Areas

Department of Economic , Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), Head of Communications Environmental Impact Assessment; Mr Mojalefa Mphapang

Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State: Provincial Head, Dr Tseliso Ntili, Care of the Executive Senior Secretary to the Provincial Head, Mr Pule Lenong

Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State Provincial Office; care of the Water Use Licensing Unit (Middle Vaal Catchment), the Director- General Ms T Baloi

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:, care of the Head of the Office : Directorate of Land Use and Soil Management, Ms. R.L. Bosoga (National LandCare Secretariat)

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Free State Province: Directorate of Land Use and Soil Management, Head of the Office, Ms Petunia Mthimkulu

Free State Province Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, the Senior Manager: Agricultural Economics, Marketing and Planning, Ms Thabitha Mokone

The SA National Roads Agency SOC Limited, The Regional Manager: Eastern Region, care of Mr Ishaan Ramklown and Statutory Control, care of Nqobile Mabaso

Department of Police, Roads and Transport, Free State Province: The Head Engineer, Roads: Directorate (Land Transport Planning): care of Assistant Director: land Acquisition, Hannes Maree REF: P29/4/201/P15/2

Department of Energy, care of the Regional Petroleum Controller at the Free State Department of Energy Mr Kagisho Mokae

Eskom SOC Limited, Land Development

Eskom Megawatt Park: Manager: SEA/EIA Centre of Excellence: Sustainability Division: Environmental Management Department: For attention: the Chief Environmental Advisor, Mr Tobile Bokwe and the Senior Environmental Advisor, Mpho Muswubi

Eskom Transmission Division, the Senior Consultant Environmental Management, Land and Rights, Mr John Geeringh

Eskom SOC Limited, Free State Operating Unit, Grid Planning: Land and Rights, care of Mr Nondwe Khanye and Environmental Manager, Mr Gerrie van Schalkwyk

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Previous communication regarding the Mercury Cluster Solar PV Project refers.

Landscape Dynamics

From: Mathiso Zoleka <MathisoZ@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 28 April 2023 7:57 AM
To: Landscape Dynamics
Cc: 'annelize'; 'megan'
Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJJOENSKROON

Good morning

Kindly note that I have managed to download the documents. Thank you.

Regards
Zoleka Mathiso

Department of Water and Sanitation
Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement
Tel: 051 405 9255
Cell: 066 346 3478



From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:59 AM
To: Mathiso Zoleka <MathisoZ@dws.gov.za>
Cc: 'annelize' <annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za>; 'megan' <megan@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJJOENSKROON

Dear Zoleka

We have created a new WeTransfer file which you will receive in a separate email and are also providing you with clear instructions on how to access these documents. Please phone either me or Annelize (082 566 4530) if you experience any further difficulties.

[Click on Download](#)

Landscape Dynamics

From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 11:27 AM
To: 'Baloï Tsakane'
Cc: Megan Grobler (megan@landscapedynamics.co.za); Susanna Nel (susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za)
Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON

Dear Tsakane

Thank you for your response. We will amend the list as requested.

Kind regards
Annelize Erasmus
Reg. EAP (EAPASA)



Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

Central e-mail : info@landscapedynamics.co.za

Pretoria Office : A. Erasmus, Tel 082 566 4530 / annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za / agrobler@landscapedynamics.co.za

Cape Town Office : S. Nel, Tel 082 888 4060 / susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za

Website Address : www.landscapedynamics.co.za



From: Baloï Tsakane [<mailto:BaloïTg@dws.gov.za>]

Sent: Wednesday, 05 April 2023 10:50 AM

To: Landscape Dynamics

Subject: RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON

Good Morning,

I don't think this e-mail is intended for me. I work for DWS but I don't work in the Free State Province. I see in your e-mail you already have the provincial head Mr Ntli. May you please remove my name underneath (Department of Water and Sanitation, Free State Provincial Office; care of the Water Use Licensing Unit (Middle Vaal Catchment), the Director- General Ms T Baloï) as I do not work there or within the unit. Mr Ntli is responsible and I am not sure who is within the unit, he might be able to guide you further.

Regards
Tsakane Baloï

Landscape Dynamics

From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2023 11:10 AM
To: 'John Geeringh'
Cc: Susanna Nel (susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za); Megan Grobler (megan@landscapedynamics.co.za); Lloyd Barnes
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VIJJOENSKROON
Attachments: Kleinfontein directly to MTS.kmz; Kleinfontein via LILO lines.kmz; Vlakfontein directly to the Mercury MTS.kmz; Vlakfontein via LILO lines.kmz; Zaaiplaats Directly to MTS.kmz; Vlakfontein Solar PV1 - Layout (2023-02-14).jpg; A(6) KMZ File of the Vlakfontein Solar PV1.kmz; Kleinfontein Solar PV1 - Layout (2023-02-14).jpg; A(6) KMZ File Kleinfontein Solar PV1.kmz; A(6) KMZ File Zaaiplaats Solar PV1.kmz; Zaaiplaats Solar PV1 - Layout (2023-01-14).jpg

Dear John

Please find attached the relevant KMZ files and JPG layouts of the three projects as per your request. This part of the Public Participation Process refers to the following three solar facilities with associated grid connections:

SOLAR FACILITY	GRID CONNECTION
Zaaiplaats Solar PV1	Zaaiplaats Solar PV1 Grid Connection: Connecting directly to the Mercury MTS
Kleinfontein Solar PV1	Kleinfontein Solar PV1 Grid Connection: Connecting to the Mercury MTS via LILO lines to the existing Mercury-Vaal Reefs 11 No 1 power line
Kleinfontein Solar PV1	Kleinfontein Solar PV1 Grid Connection: Connecting directly to the Mercury MTS
Vlakfontein Solar PV1	Vlakfontein Solar PV1 Grid Connection: Connecting to the Mercury MTS via LILO lines to the existing Mercury-South Vaal 1 power line
Vlakfontein Solar PV1	Vlakfontein Solar PV1 Grid Connection: Connecting directly to the Mercury MTS

It will really be appreciated if you can provide your comment referring to the specific grid connection and/or solar facility.

Please not hesitate to contact our offices should you require any clarification.

Kind regards
Annelize Erasmus
Reg. EAP (EAPASA)



Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

Central e-mail : info@landscapedynamics.co.za

Pretoria Office : A. Erasmus, Tel 082 566 4530 / annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za / agrobler@landscapedynamics.co.za

Cape Town Office : S. Nel, Tel 082 888 4060 / susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za

Website Address : www.landscapedynamics.co.za

Environmental Assessment
Practitioners Association
of South Africa



From: John Geeringh [mailto:GeerinJH@eskom.co.za]

Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2023 9:34 AM

To: Landscape Dynamics

Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON

Please send me a KMZ file of the affected properties, proposed development footprint and 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.

Kind regards

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat) Reg. EAP (EAPASA)
Senior Consultant Environmental Management
Grid Planning: Land and Rights
Eskom Transmission Division
Megawatt Park, D1Y42, Maxwell Drive, Sunninghill, Sandton.
P O Box 1091, Johannesburg, 2000.
Tel: 011 516 7233
Cell: 083 632 7663
Fax: 086 661 4064
E-mail: john.geeringh@eskom.co.za

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From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>

Sent: Tuesday, 04 April 2023 21:57

To: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za; rmagodi@dffe.gov.za; mphapangm@destea.gov.za; mpmphapang@gmail.com; ntilit@dwa.gov.za; lenongP@dws.gov.za; letloenyane@dws.gov.za; mahlael@dws.gov.za; kumaloz@dws.gov.za; maseloanek@dws.gov.za; musekenen2@dws.gov.za; baloitg@dws.gov.za; LydiaB@daff.gov.za; info@dalrrd.gov.za; DLUSM@DAFF.gov.za; petuniam@daff.gov.za; mokonet@dard.gov.za; Ramklowni@nra.co.za; mabason@nra.co.za; fsroadplanning@gmail.com; Kagisho.mokae@energy.gov.za; Kagisho.Mokae@dmre.gov.za; Wayleave

Annelize Erasmus

From: Letlhogonolo Padi <PadiHL@eskom.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 April 2023 3:29 PM
To: Landscape Dynamics; annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za
Cc: Mamokete Mafume; Precious Mashiteng; Itumeleng Moeng; Megan Grobler; Susanna Nel
Subject: RE: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE PROVINCE
Attachments: Mercury Cluster Projects Area.docx

Good day Annelize

Attached are the depictions of how the 2X 765kv power lines will be affected by each of the 5 plants/facilities. Please note that the servitude width for both lines will be between 200m to 220m wide and mostly running parallel to the existing powerlines.

Please let me know if you need any additional information regarding this.

Kind Regards

Letlhogonolo Padi

From: Landscape Dynamics <info@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 April 2023 15:31
To: Letlhogonolo Padi <PadiHL@eskom.co.za>; annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za
Cc: Mamokete Mafume <MafumoML@eskom.co.za>; Precious Mashiteng <MashitePR@eskom.co.za>; Itumeleng Moeng <Moengl@eskom.co.za>; Megan Grobler <megan@landscapedynamics.co.za>; Susanna Nel <susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za>
Subject: [CAUTION:EXTERNAL EMAIL] RE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Dear Mr Padi

Please find attached hereto a combined file for the entire Mercury Solar PV Cluster Project (5 solar facilities) of which the three solar PVs referred to in this email form a part. It would be appreciated if you could indicate separately how each of the proposed solar facilities might affect your planning in terms of the 765kv power line from Mercury to the proposed Umntu substation in Hotazel.

Kind regards
Annelize Erasmus
Reg. EAP (EAPASA)



Landscape Dynamics Environmental Consultants

Central e-mail : info@landscapedynamics.co.za

Pretoria Office : A. Erasmus, Tel 082 566 4530 / annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za / agrobler@landscapedynamics.co.za

Cape Town Office : S. Nel, Tel 082 888 4060 / susanna@landscapedynamics.co.za

Website Address : www.landscapedynamics.co.za



From: Letlhogonolo Padi [<mailto:PadiHL@eskom.co.za>]

Sent: Wednesday, 12 April 2023 2:32 PM

To: annelize@landscapedynamics.co.za

Cc: info@landscapedynamics.co.za; Mamokete Mafume; Precious Mashiteng; Itumeleng Moeng

Subject: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THREE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORTS FOR COMMENT: VLAKFONTEIN SOLAR PV1; ZAAIPLAATS SOLAR PV1 AND KLEINFONTEIN SOLAR PV1, VILJOENSKROON, FREE STATE PROVINCE

Importance: High

Good day Annelize

With reference to the above, we have a planned project to construct a 765kv power line from Mercury to the proposed Umntu substation in Hotazel which might be affected by this development.

Could you please be so kind to forward us the kmz/dgn files of your planned development so we can superimpose it on our plans and see how we might be affected. Once this is done, we will then give comment to you regarding your project.

Your valued response in this will be highly appreciated

Kind regards

Letlhogonolo Padi

Senior Advisor Land & Rights

SAGC (GTcES 1007)

SACPLAN (C/8192/2016)

Eskom Transmission

Megawatt Park 01 Maxwell Drive Sunninghill

P.O Box 1091 Johannesburg 2000

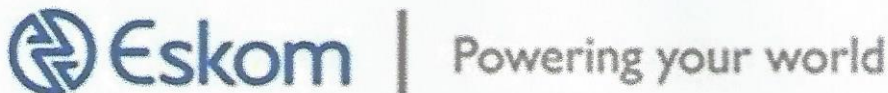
+2711 800 3552 (W)

8131 3552 (PAX)

+2773 581 6624 (C)

+2786 465 0832 (F)

padihl@eskom.co.za or padihl@yahoo.com



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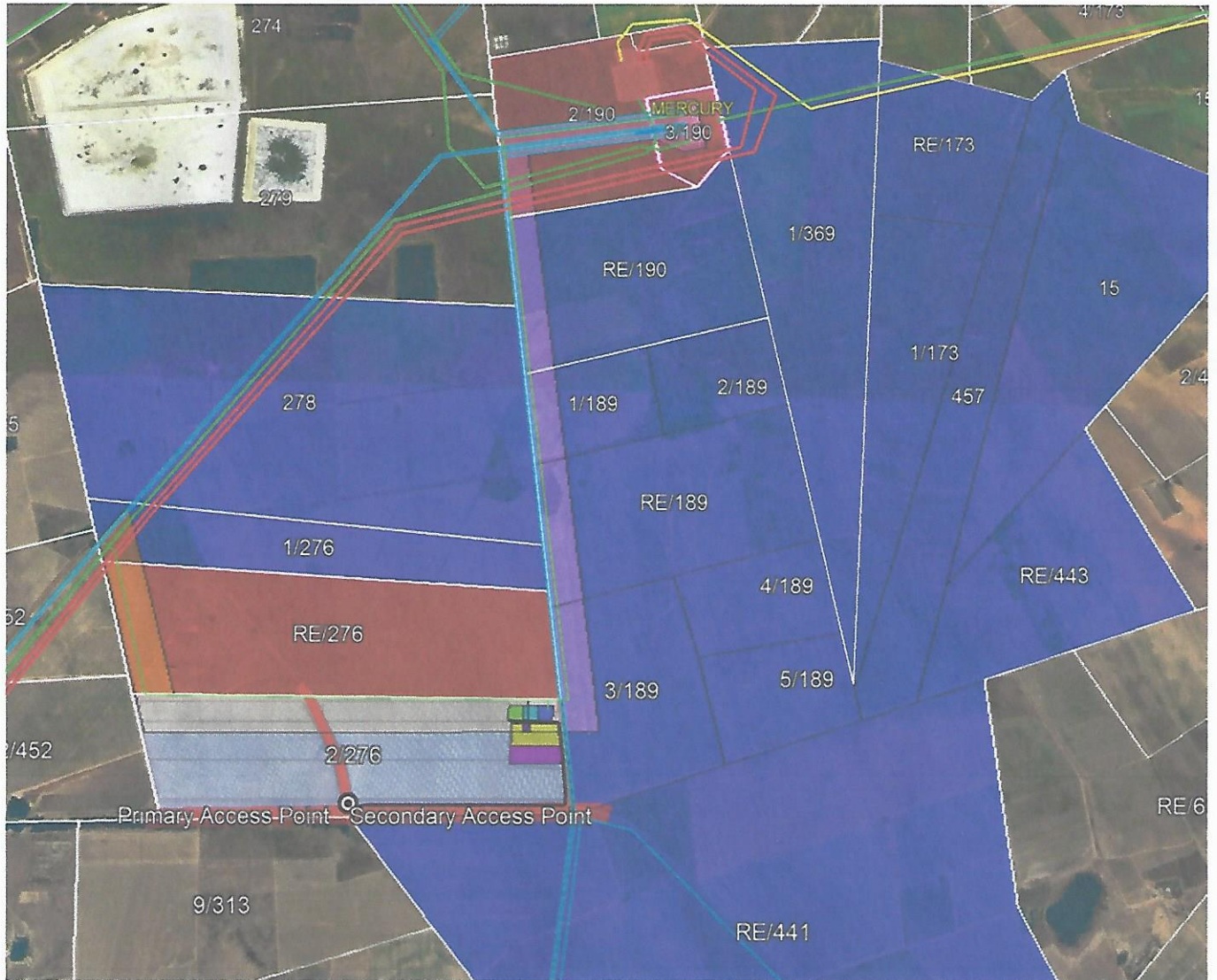
"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value"- Albert Einstein

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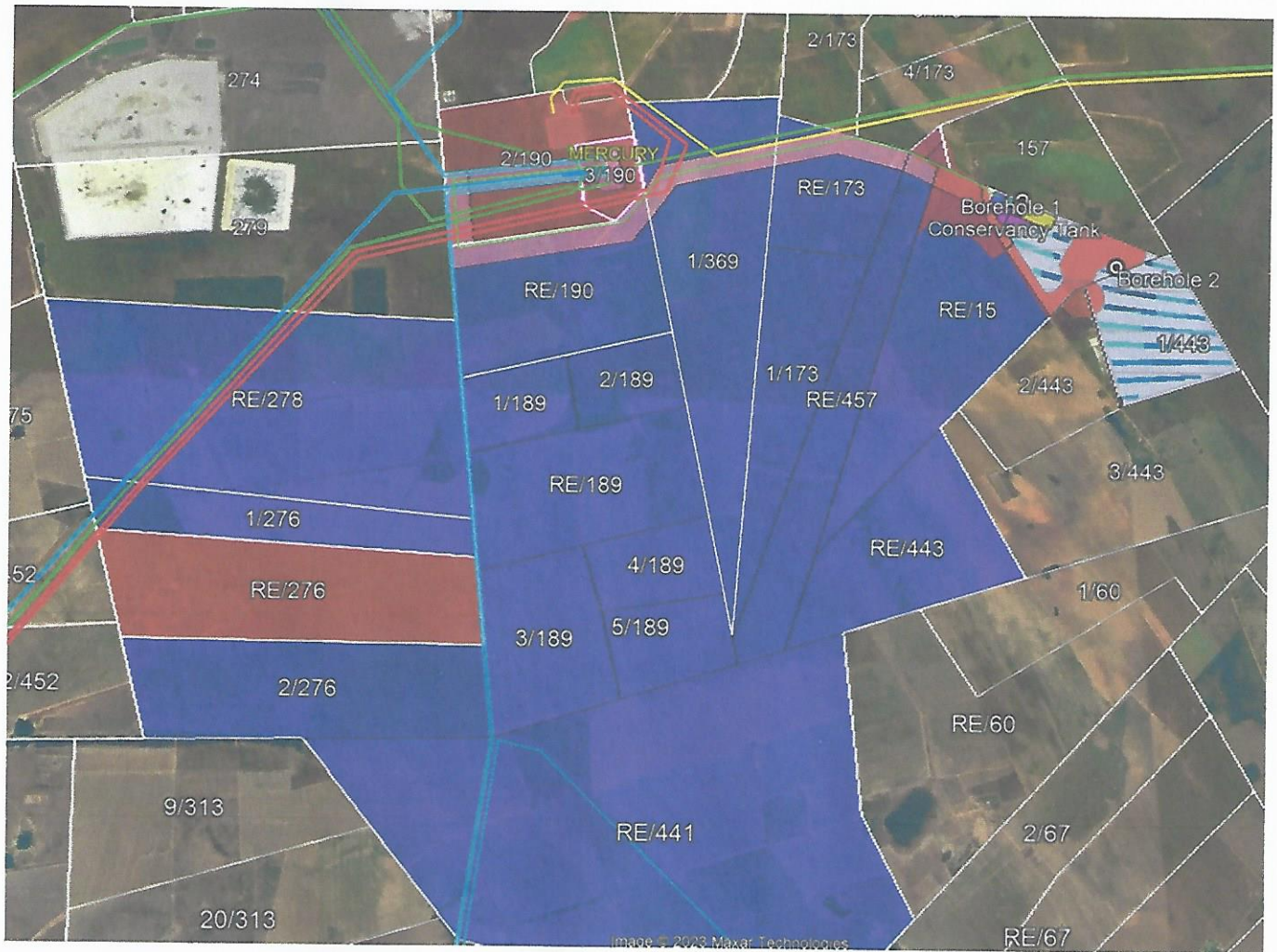
Hormah Solar PV1 (2023-02-03)

Red lines indicate the 2 x Mercury – Umtu 765kV Lines



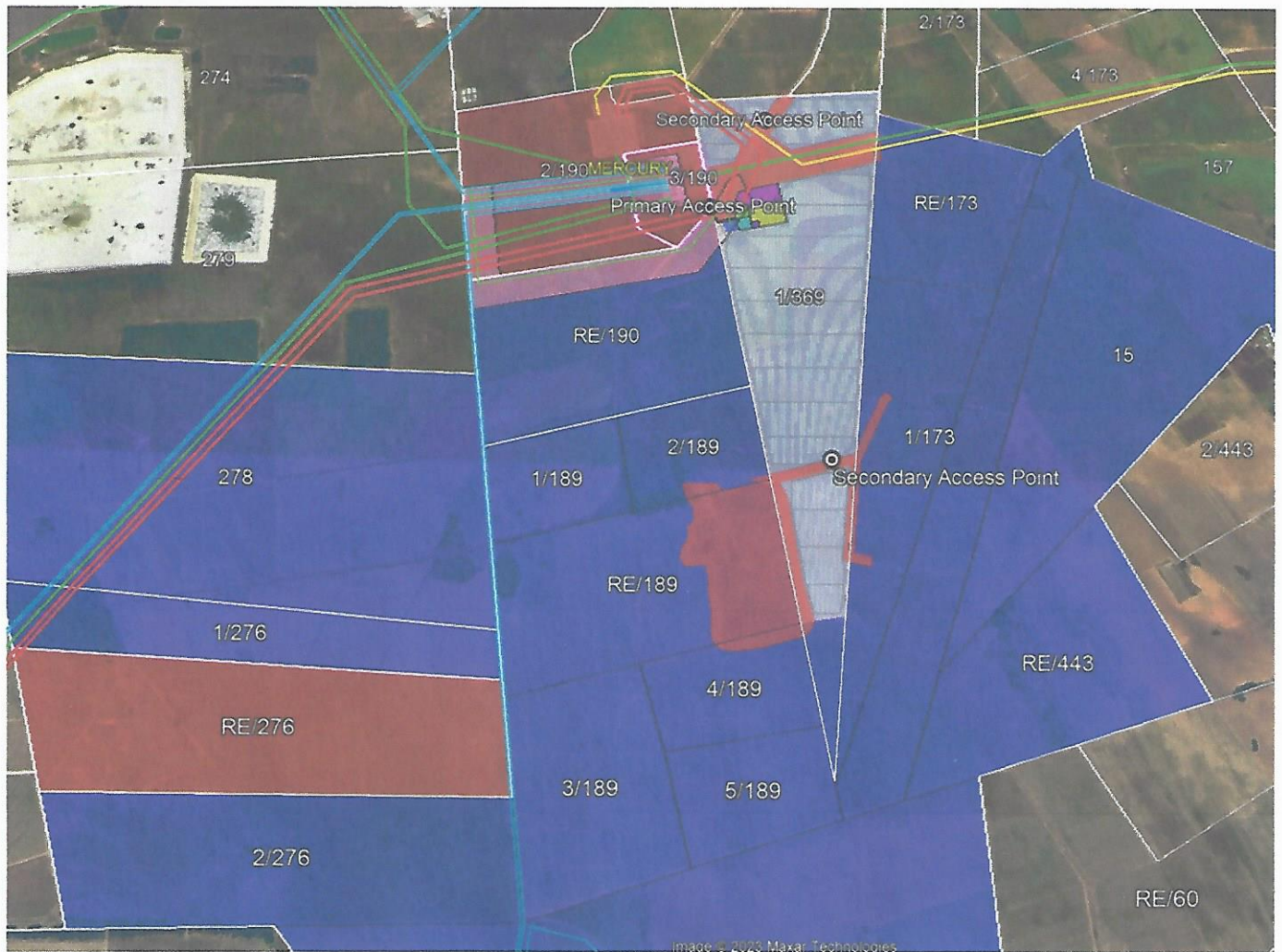
Vlakfontein Solar PV1 (2023-02-03)

Red lines indicate the 2 x Mercury – Umtu 765kV Lines



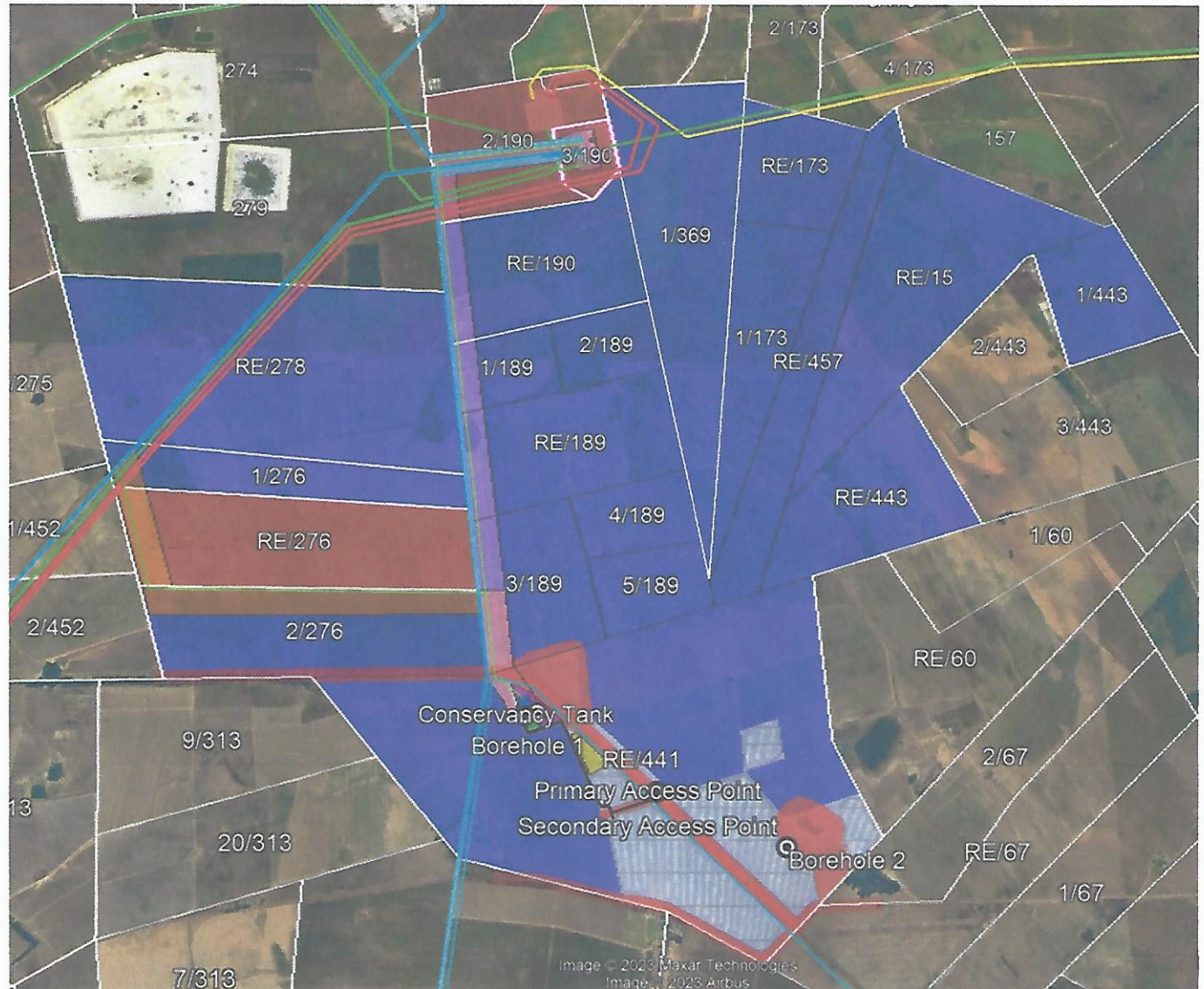
Kleinfontein Solar PV1 (2023-02-03)

Red lines indicate the 2 x Mercury – Umtu 765kV Lines



Ratpan Solar PV1 (2023-02-03)

Red lines indicate the 2 x Mercury – Umtu 765kV Lines



Zaaipplaats Solar PV1 (2023-02-03)

Red lines indicate the 2 x Mercury – Umtu 765kV Lines

