



ATLANTIC  
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PARTNERS

# ATLANTIC RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERS (PTY) LIMITED

## Storm Water, Erosion, and Wastewater Management Plan

On behalf of Humansrus Solar 4 (Pty) Ltd

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**Date:** April 2016

# DOCUMENT CERTIFICATION

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## REVISION HISTORY

<b>Document Certification</b>	<b>ATLANTIC RENEWABLE ENERGY PARTNERS</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Storm Water, Erosion, and Wastewater Management Plan		
<b>Project Name</b>	Humansrus Solar 4		
<b>Client</b>	Humansrus Solar 4 (Pty) Ltd		
<b>Revision No.</b>	<b>Revision Date</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Approved By</b>
Rev 1.0	2016.03.16	B. Rabbitte	D. Peinke
Rev 2.0	2016.03.30	B. Rabbitte	D. Peinke
Rev 3.0	2016.04.11	B. Rabbitte	D. Peinke

## AUTHORISED FOR RELEASE

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## DISTRIBUTION

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D. Holder	Consultant	Cape EAPrac
S. Mischczak	Project Developer	AEP

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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DOCUMENT CERTIFICATION .....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	3
LIST OF FIGURES, TABLES, AND EQUATIONS .....	4
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS.....	5
1. INTRODUCTION .....	6
2. PROJECT SITE CHARACTERISTICS .....	8
2.1 Climate Conditions in the Region .....	9
2.2 Topography of the Region.....	9
3. METHODOLOGY .....	11
4. CALCULATIONS .....	12
4.1 Determine the size of the catchment .....	12
4.2 Calculating the Peak Flow.....	13
4.2.1 Run-off Coefficient (C).....	13
4.2.2 Rainfall Intensity (i) .....	14
4.2.3 Effective Catchment Area (A).....	15
4.3 Finding of Results .....	15
5. PROPOSED PREVENTATIVE MEASURES .....	16
5.1 Preventative Storm Water Measures .....	16
5.1.1 Watercourse 1 and 2.....	16
5.1.2 Removal of Vegetation.....	16
5.2 Applied Storm Water Measures .....	16
5.2.1 Access road.....	16
5.2.2 Discharge Channels .....	17
5.3 Erosion Protection Measures.....	18
5.3.1 Topography .....	18
5.3.2 Implementation of Gabions .....	18
5.4 Wastewater Management .....	19
5.4.1 Wash Water runoff.....	19
5.4.2 Sewage Disposal.....	20

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....21  
7. REFERENCES .....22  
APPENDIX 1- Excel sheet .....23

# LIST OF FIGURES, TABLES, AND EQUATIONS

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Figure 1: Google Map depicting the location of Humansrus 4 (Google Maps, 2016).....	6
Figure 2: View of the Humansrus 4 site taken from the R357 (Google Maps, 2016) .....	8
Figure 3: Climate conditions of Prieska, Northern Cape .....	9
Figure 4: General slope pattern of the Humansrus 4 site .....	10
Figure 5: Catchment and Watercourse for Humansrus Solar 4.....	12
Figure 6: Table of significant variables used to calculate C (SANRAL, 2006).....	14
Figure 7: Cross section of typical kerbs (SANRAL, 2006) .....	17
Figure 8: Stepped energy dissipater channel (SANRAL, 2006) .....	17
Figure 9: Gabions protection on walls of channel.....	18
Figure 10: Gabions used for bank stabilisers .....	19
Figure 11: Ecoppia's E4 cleaning panels (Pickerel, 2015).....	20
Table 1: Coordinates of Humansrus 4 .....	6
Table 2: Sizing of the Catchment and Watercourse .....	12
Table 3: Peak Flow for the Watercourses .....	15
Equation 1: Rational Method .....	13
Equation 2: Run-off Coefficient: .....	14
Equation 3: Time of Concentration:.....	14
Equation 4: 1085 Method:.....	15
Equation 5: Rainfall Intensity: .....	15

# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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AEP	Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners
CSP	Concentrated Solar Power
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
MW	Megawatts
PV	Photovoltaic
SANRAL	South African National Roads Agency
SWMP	Storm Water, Erosion, and Wastewater Management Plan

# 1. INTRODUCTION

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Humansrus Solar 4 (Pty) Ltd appointed Atlantic Renewable Energy Partners (Pty) Ltd to prepare a Storm Water, Erosion, and Wastewater Management Plan (SWMP) for the proposed Humansrus Solar 4 (Pty) Ltd solar photovoltaic (PV) facility (hereinafter referred to as ‘**Humansrus 4**’) in order to support the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The purpose of this SWMP is to determine how precipitation will affect the proposed site and provide solutions that could mitigate any negative impacts expected to occur at the proposed site.

Humansrus 4 is proposed to have a contracted capacity totaling 75 MW and an estimated footprint of 302ha. Humansrus 4 is situated on the Farm Humansrus 147, 10km South-East of Copperton and 50km South-West of Prieska in the Northern Cape (as shown in Figure 1). The coordinates for the Humansrus 4 are provided in Table 1, below:

Table 1: Coordinates of Humansrus 4

Latitude	Longitude
29°59'4.70"S	22°23'23.53"E



Figure 1: Google Map depicting the location of Humansrus 4 (Google Maps, 2016)

The scope of this report include:

1. Determining the catchment area for Humansrus 4 using QuantumGIS™;
2. Using the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) Drainage Manual (2006) in order to estimate flood peak for the catchment for a return period of 1:50 years;
3. Providing potential solutions in order to mitigate any negative impacts that could occur at the site during its project lifecycle.



## 2. PROJECT SITE CHARACTERISTICS

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Humansrus 4 is situated near the town of Copperton in the central Karoo Region of the Northern Cape. The Karoo is a semi-desert natural region with sparse flora consisting mainly of shrubs and succulents. The region has a dry climate with low rainfall and cloudless skies; extremes of hot and cold temperatures are often common. Figure 2 depicts the sparse vegetation on which Humansrus 4 will be developed.

Economic activities in the surrounding area are primarily mining, renewable energy developments (PV, Concentrated Solar Power (CSP), and wind) and agriculture (particularly sheep farming).



Figure 2: View of the Humansrus 4 site taken from the R357 (Google Maps, 2016)

Humansrus 4 is proposed to have a maximum contracted capacity of 75MW and consist of the following elements:

- PV panels;
- Mounting structures on which the solar modules will be connected;
- Inverters and a facility substation;
- Connection from the facility substation to Eskom's injection point (assumed to be Kronos MTS);
- Site offices and ablution facilities (both temporary and permanent depending of stage of project development);

- Access roads and fencing; and
- Installation of cabling.

## 2.1 Climate Conditions in the Region

The region receives very little annual precipitation, with most of the rainfall typically occurring during the autumn months. Temperatures vary drastically throughout the year, with an annual average range of 16°C. Extreme high temperatures are experienced in the summer months when the mercury reach sits around 35°C, whereas the winter months often yield drastic low temperatures with an average temperature of 1°C during the middle of winter. Figure 3 shows average precipitation and temperature for the months of the year (Climate Data, 2016).

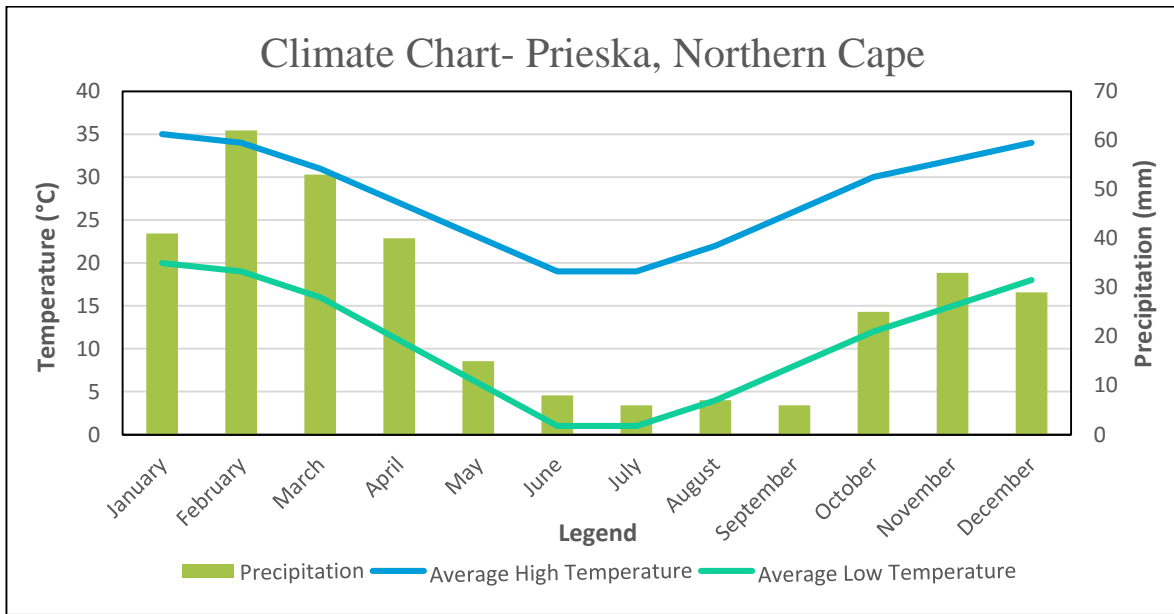


Figure 3: Climate conditions of Prieska, Northern Cape

## 2.2 Topography of the Region

The region associated with Huamansrus 4 has a very mild gradient with an average range of 0-2% throughout the site, as can be seen in Figure 4. The site has a gentle concave shape with the drainage pattern having a general flow towards the North-West.

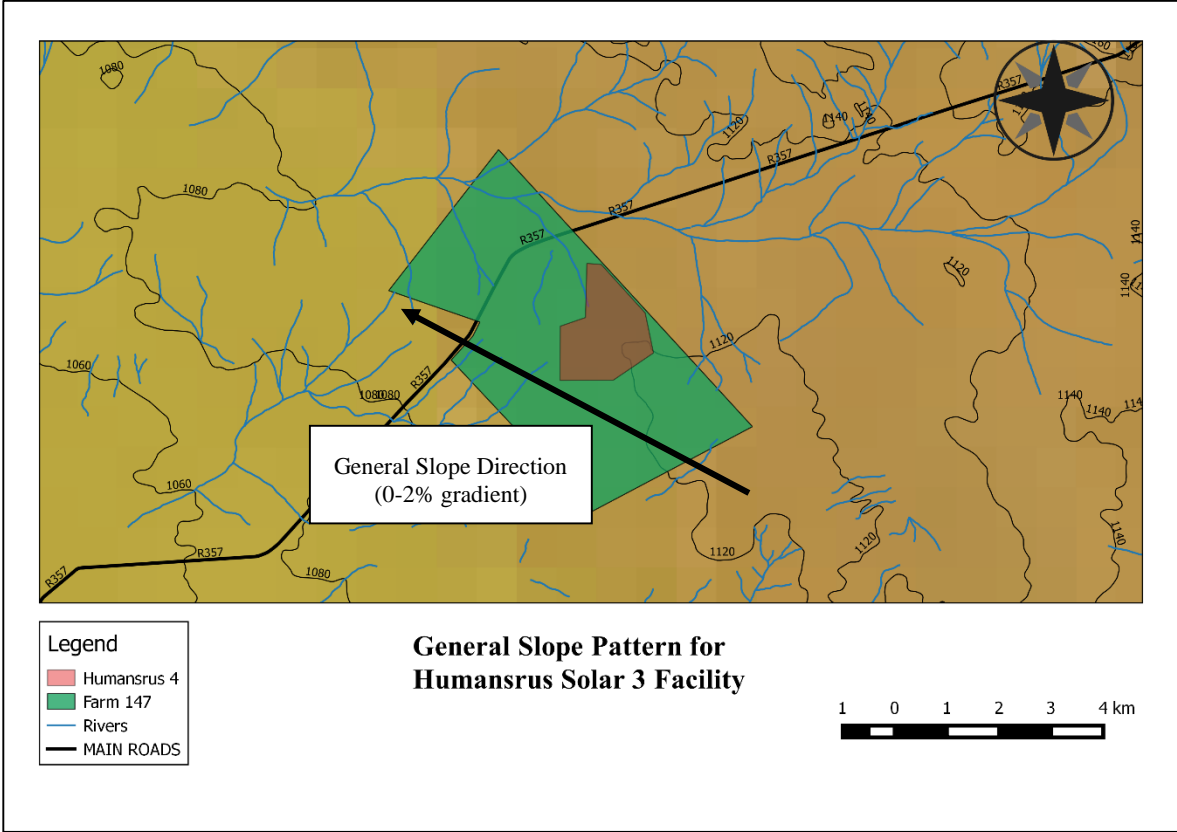


Figure 4: General slope pattern of the Humansrus 4 site

### 3. METHODOLOGY

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In order to determine how precipitation will affect the proposed site, a method for calculating the flood peak was chosen. The characteristics of the project site have been compared with that of the SANRAL Drainage Manual (2006), and the following assumptions were made:

- The **Rational method** was used for the flood calculation;
- The recurrence period of **1:50 years** was chosen as this will reduce the risk of increased maintenance occurring during the operational phase of the project's life cycle;
- All potential solutions that were developed took both the Humansrus 4 facility, as well as the current environmental conditions, in to account.

This resulted in the following procedure being followed:

1. Catchments were determined according to the watercourses running through the site;
2. The area of these catchments and lengths of the watercourses were then calculated;
3. The gradient of the catchment was then determined through the '1085 method'.
4. The Rational method was then used in order to determine the flood peak; and
5. Potential solutions were developed in order to mitigate future risk occurring.

## 4. CALCULATIONS

In order to reduce the risk of damage to the facility over its lifecycle, a return period of **1:50 years** was chosen. The steps taken in order to determine this flood peak are described below.

### 4.1 Determine the size of the catchment

The catchments were measured using QuantumGIS™ software. There were two non-perennial river courses that ran through the site creating two catchments. Figure 5 shows the estimated catchments with their general run-off into their respective non-perennial river courses.

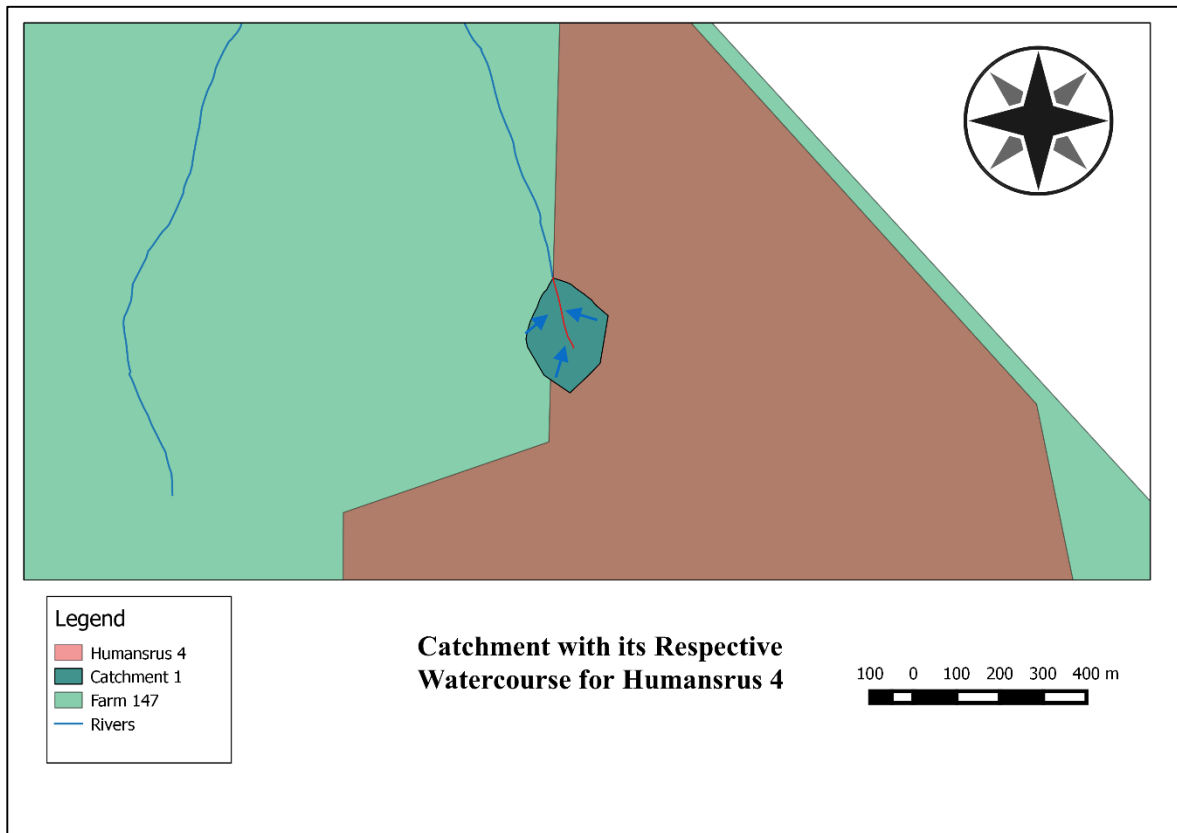


Figure 5: Catchment and Watercourse for Humansrus Solar 4

Table 2 illustrates the area and length measurement for the catchment and its respective watercourse. The data calculated was then used in the following equations in order to determine the flood peak.

Table 2: Sizing of the Catchment and Watercourse

Catchment	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Length of watercourse (km)
1	0.038	0.191

## 4.2 Calculating the Peak Flow

The Rational method was used in order to determine the peak flow for the catchment area. This method was used due to the size of each catchment being less than 15km<sup>2</sup>. This application is based on the following assumptions (adapted from SANRAL, 2006):

- The rainfall has a uniform area distribution across the catchment area;
- The rainfall has a uniform time distribution equal to at least the time of concentration (T<sub>c</sub>);
- Peak discharge occurs when the total catchment contributes to the flow at the end of T<sub>c</sub>;
- The runoff coefficient (C) remains constant throughout the duration of the storm;
- The return period of the peak flow (T) is the same as that of the rainfall intensity.

The rational method is governed by Equation 1 (SANRAL, 2006),

Equation 1: Rational Method

$$Q = \frac{C \cdot i \cdot A}{3,6}$$

Where,

Q	= Peak flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)
C	= Run-off coefficient (dimensionless)
i	= Average rainfall intensity over catchment (mm/hr)
A	= Effective area of catchment (km <sup>2</sup> )
3,6	= Conversion factor

### 4.2.1 Run-off Coefficient (C)

The run-off coefficient is a dimensionless value based on the most significant factors affecting the rainfall-run-off relationship. Figure 6 and Equation 2 were used in order to calculate the coefficient.

		Rural (C <sub>1</sub> )			Urban (C <sub>2</sub> )	
Component	Classification	Mean annual rainfall (mm)			Use	Factor
		< 600	600 - 900	> 900		
Surface slope (C <sub>s</sub> )	Vleis and pans (<3%)	0,01	0,03	0,05	<i>Lawns</i> - Sandy, flat (<2%) - Sandy, steep (>7%) - Heavy soil, flat (<2%) - Heavy soil, steep (>7%)	0,05 - 0,10 0,15 - 0,20 0,13 - 0,17 0,25 - 0,35
	Flat areas (3 to 10%)	0,06	0,08	0,11		
	Hilly (10 to 30%)	0,12	0,16	0,20		
	Steep areas (>30%)	0,22	0,26	0,30		
Permeability (C <sub>p</sub> )	Very permeable	0,03	0,04	0,05	<i>Residential areas</i> - Houses - Flats	0,30 - 0,50 0,50 - 0,70
	Permeable	0,06	0,08	0,10		
	Semi-permeable	0,12	0,16	0,20	<i>Industry</i> - Light industry - Heavy industry	0,50 - 0,80 0,60 - 0,90
	Impermeable	0,21	0,26	0,30		
Vegetation (C <sub>v</sub> )	Thick bush and plantation	0,03	0,04	0,05	<i>Business</i> - City centre - Suburban	0,70 - 0,95 0,50 - 0,70
	Light bush and farm lands	0,07	0,11	0,15		
	Grasslands	0,17	0,21	0,25	- Streets - Maximum flood	0,70 - 0,95 1,00
	No vegetation	0,26	0,28	0,30		

Figure 6: Table of significant variables used to calculate C (SANRAL, 2006)

Equation 2: Run-off Coefficient:

$$C = Ft(C_s + C_p + C_v)$$

Where,

Ft = 0.95 (Coefficient factor for 1:50 year return period)

The run-off coefficient was calculated to be **0.238**. The specific values used are listed in Appendix 1.

#### 4.2.2 Rainfall Intensity (i)

In order to determine what the largest peak discharge for a given return period (1:50 years) will be, the storm rainfall should have a duration equal to that of the time required for the whole catchment to contribute to run-off, defined as the time of concentration (T<sub>C</sub>). T<sub>C</sub>, for a defined watercourse where channel flow occurs, is governed by Equation 3:

Equation 3: Time of Concentration:

$$T_C = \left( \frac{0.87L^2}{1000S_{av}} \right)^{0.385}$$

Where,

T<sub>C</sub> = Time of concentration (hours)

L = Length of longest watercourse (km)

S<sub>av</sub> = average slope (m/m)

$S_{av}$  was calculated using the ‘1085 Method’. This calculation is expressed in Equation 4:

Equation 4: 1085 Method:

$$S_{av} = \frac{H_{0.85L} - H_{0.1L}}{(1000)(0.75L)}$$

Where,

$H_{0.1L}$  = Elevation at 10% length of the watercourse (m)

$H_{0.85L}$  = Elevation at 85% length of the watercourse (m)

$L$  = Length of the longest watercourse (km)

The time of concentration for watercourse 1 was calculated to be **0.137hrs.**

Therefore, the rainfall intensity ( $i$ ) for the region was determined using Equation 5:

Equation 5: Rainfall Intensity:

$$i = (\text{regional factor}) * (\text{MAP factor}) * (\text{frequency factor})$$

Where,

$$\text{Regional factor (inland)} = \frac{217.8}{(1 + 4.164 * t)^{0.8832}}$$

$$\text{MAP factor} = \frac{18.79 + 0.17 * \text{MAP}}{100}$$

$\text{frequency factor} = 1.3 @ 1: 50 \text{ year return period}$

Where,

$i$  = Rainfall intensity (mm/hr)

$t$  = Storm duration

MAP = Mean annual precipitation (mm/yr)

The rainfall intensity for catchment 1 was calculated to be **44.50 mm/hr.**

### 4.2.3 Effective Catchment Area (A)

The effective catchment was calculated using QuantumGIS™ Software and is shown in Table 2.

## 4.3 Finding of Results

By using Equation 1, the following result for the peak flow was obtained, as shown in Table 3. There is a low peak flow for watercourse 1 in Humansrus 4, which is due to the very flat gradient and the lack of annual rainfall in the area. However, in order to reduce unforeseen risk of damage to the facility, preventative measures are provided in the following section.

Table 3: Peak Flow for the Watercourse

Watercourses	Peak Flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)
1	0.11



## 5. PROPOSED PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

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The following measures have been proposed in order to reduce the risk of damage occurring to the facility and the environment.

### 5.1 Preventative Storm Water Measures

These measures are proposed in order to reduce the disruption of vegetation and the watercourse within the region where Humansrus 4 will be located.

#### 5.1.1 Watercourse 1

As far as reasonably possible, the watercourse running through the Humansrus 4 site must not be altered or filled in. Disruption of this watercourse will cause the drainage channels to divert elsewhere and could potentially result in flooding or waterlogged regions developing.

#### 5.1.2 Removal of Vegetation

Disruption of all existing contours and vegetation must be kept to a minimum. Where these disruptions have to occur, provisions must be made in order to guide the rainwater away from the facility, or to increase vegetation further up slope in order to decrease run-off.

### 5.2 Applied Storm Water Measures

With vegetation and the watercourses inevitably being disrupted due to the construction of the facility, the following measures are proposed:

#### 5.2.1 Access road

The site access road, that is to be constructed off the R357, is to be designed with road drainage systems in order to prevent excessive surface run-off. The following procedures can be implemented in order to reduce this:

- Kerbs: concrete structures used in order to divert run-off along a channel. Figure 7 shows cross section details of some typical kerbs.
- Berms: small ridges placed on top of an embankment to prevent erosion by run-off down the side of the embankment.

The outlets placed in kerbs and berms must be placed correctly in order to ensure satisfactory operation of drainage systems.

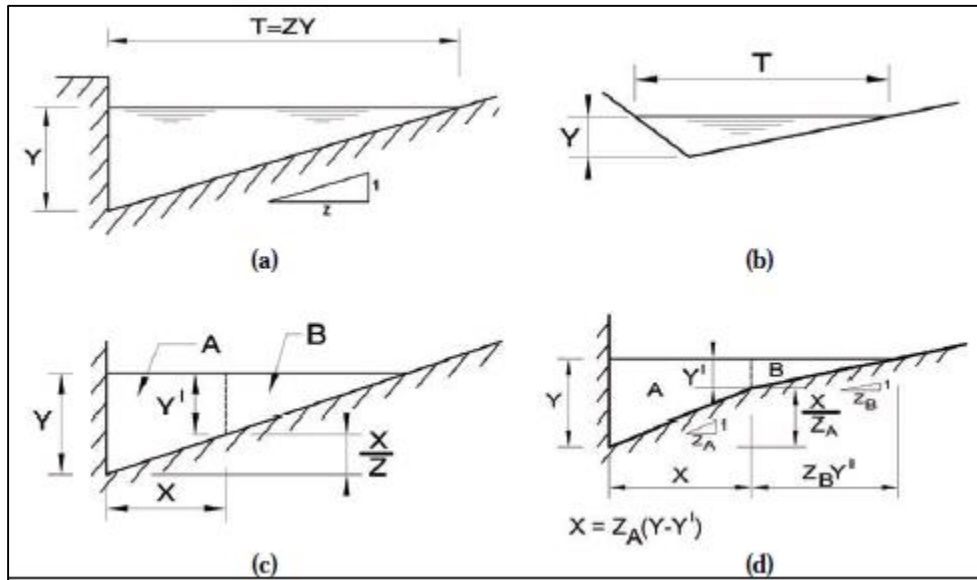


Figure 7: Cross section of typical kerbs (SANRAL, 2006)

### 5.2.2 Discharge Channels

Discharge channels are open waterways with longitudinal slopes of less than 10%. These channels must be implemented in order to redirect water away from the facility and towards the natural drainage lines that would have originally received the water from the area. Figure 8 shows a stepped channel, this channel design is used to dissipate energy as the water flows downhill.



Figure 8: Stepped energy dissipater channel (SANRAL, 2006)

## 5.3 Erosion Protection Measures

With disruption of the regions natural drainage lines, there is potential of localised erosion occurring to the facility. Therefore, the following preventative measures have been developed.

### 5.3.1 Topography

The vegetation and natural topography must be disturbed as little as possible throughout the site. Where large excavation has occurred, retaining walls must be sufficiently implemented.

### 5.3.2 Implementation of Gabions

Gabions must be implemented when localised erosion could occur. The gabions can be placed as either the lining of channels for protection against scour or as reinforcement along the edges of banks. Figure 9 and 10 provide erosion protection examples.



Figure 9: Gabions protection on walls of channel



Figure 10: Gabions used for bank stabilisers

## 5.4 Wastewater Management

During the lifecycle of the facility, the production of wastewater will occur predominately during the construction phase. Chemicals used could potentially cause short-term deterioration to the surface water quality and nearby watercourse. It is proposed that all contractors provide detailed method statements as to how these risks of pollution can be mitigated. These method statements must all comply with the Environmental Management Plan.

### 5.4.1 Wash Water runoff

During the operational phase of the project lifecycle, cleaning of the panels is likely to cause nominal additional run-off. According to a previous study completed (namely Humansrus 1 Pty (Ltd)), the cleaning of the panels is estimated to occur twice a year, for a duration of around two weeks, resulting in  $\pm 3 \text{ l/m}^2$  of wash water used. However, due to the size and topography of this site, the low water volumes would cause minimal risk of erosion to the facility. The wash water used must also be chemical free so no pollution of ground water will occur.

Other water-free contenders can be used in order to provide for a more environmentally friendly solution. Figure 10 shows a machine developed by Eccopia which does a daily brush sweep of the panels over a defined time interval.



Figure 11: Ecoppia's E4 cleaning panels (Pickerel, 2015)

#### 5.4.2 Sewage Disposal

All sewage generated on site will be disposed of adequately. During the construction phase, temporary ablution facilities (chemical toilets) will be used for all workers on site. 'Honeysucker' trucks will be used, on a regular basis, to transport collected sewage to a nearby waste water treatment works.

The operational phase of the project will require a more permanent means of sewage disposal. Connection to the sewage network could prove difficult due to the remote locality of the facility. Septic tank systems (conservancy tanks) would provide for an adequate long term solution. It is recommended that the tanks be equipped with a float switch controlled alert system so that no overspill occurs during operation.

## 6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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The study found that the peak flow for Humansrus 4 was  $0.11\text{m}^3/\text{s}$ . This low value is due to the flat topography and lack of annual rainfall in the region. Therefore, it can be concluded that Humansrus 4 will have a low risk of flooding occurring during its project lifecycle.

However, the following recommendations are proposed in order to further reduce this risk and to also mitigate potential negative impacts from occurring on the surrounding region.

- Preventative measures are to be implemented in order to disrupt the environment as little as possible.
- All access roads require proper drainage systems in place in order to channel water away to a culvert.
- All excavations and drainage channels must be adequately protected against potential erosion.
- Mitigation measures must be provided by all personnel that negatively affect the quality of the ground water.
- Wash water used must be chemical free or water-free options must be implemented (if feasible).
- All sewage created on site must be contained and eventually removed from site.

## 7. REFERENCES

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Climate Data. (2016). Climate data. Retrieved February 22, 2016, from <http://www.climatedata.eu/climate.php?loc=sfzz0043&lang=en>

Pickerel, K. (2015). No Title. Retrieved March 7, 2016, from <http://www.solarpowerworldonline.com/2015/02/fighting-dirty-manual-washing-vs-automatic-cleaning-of-solar-modules/>

SANRAL. (2006). Drainage Manual, 5th Edition, 420. Retrieved from [www.nra.co.za](http://www.nra.co.za)

## APPENDIX 1- Excel sheet

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<b>Rational Method</b>			
<b>Description</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Value of watercourse</b>	<b>Unit</b>
		<b>1</b>	
<b>Constants</b>			
Return Period		1:50	Years
Coefficient factor	Ft	0.95	m/m
at 10% of watercourse	0.1L	1113.2	m
at 85% of watercourse	0.85L	1114	m
Length of watercourse	L	0.191	km
Area of catchment	A	0.0384	km <sup>2</sup>
Frequency factor	ff	1.3	-
Mean Annual Precipitation	MAP	27.08	mm/yr
<b>Calculations</b>			
Peak flow	Q	0.11	m <sup>3</sup> /s
Run-off coefficient	C	0.24	-
Surface Slope	Cs	0.06	-
Permeability	Cp	0.12	-
Vegetation	Cv	0.07	-
Time of Concentration	Tc	0.1366	hours
Average Slope	Sav	0.00558	m/m
Rainfall Intensity	<i>i</i>	44.50	mm/hr
Regional factor	Rf(inland)	146.32	-
MAP factor	MAP	0.23	mm/hr