

From the desk of Gabriele Wood
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29 August 2013

South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA)
111 Harrington Street
Cape Town
8001

Tel: 021-462-4502
Email: mgalimberti@sahra.org.za

Dear Ms. Mariagrazia Galimberti

GIHON SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE (DEA REF: 14/12/16/3/3/2/576)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC MEETING

Networx Renewables (Pty) Ltd is proposing to construct a commercial photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facility (known as the Gihon Solar Energy Facility) with a generating capacity of up to 150 MW (over two phases), as well as associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 4 km south of Bela-Bela in the Limpopo Province.

The Gihon Solar Energy Facility is proposed to be developed on portions 1, 2, 5 and 7 of the farm Turfbult 494 KR. It is proposed to make use of either static or tracking solar panel technology for this facility. Other infrastructure associated with the facility will include:

- » Mounting structures for the solar panels to support the PV panels.
- » An on-site inverter to step up the power and a substation to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- » An overhead power line to loop-in and loop out of the existing Pelly-Warmbad 132kV power line located at the northern boundary of the site.
- » Cabling between the projects components, to be laid underground where practical.
- » Workshop area for maintenance and storage.
- » Internal access roads and fencing.

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COMPANY REGISTRATION NO.: 2006/000127/07
VAT REGISTRATION NO.: 4780226736

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the EIA Regulations published in terms of Section 24(5) of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA, Act No. 107 of 1998), Networx Renewables (Pty) Ltd requires authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) in consultation with the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET) for the construction and operation of the proposed solar energy facility. In terms of sections 24 and 24D of NEMA, as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 (Regulations 26-35) as well as GN R544, GN R 545 and GN R546, a Scoping and EIA are required to be undertaken for this proposed project.

In order to obtain authorisation, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations. This project has been registered with the National DEA under application reference number **14/12/16/3/3/2/576**.

DRAFT SCOPING REPORT AVAILABE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

A Draft Scoping Report for the proposed Gihon Solar Energy Facility has been prepared by Savannah Environmental and is available for public review. The review period is from **29 August 2013 – 30 September 2013**. A copy of the Draft Scoping Report has been uploaded to the SAHRIS website. The report can also be viewed on our website www.savannahSA.com. Please could you kindly submit your formal comments by sending written correspondence in this regard. All comments received will be submitted in the final Scoping Report which will be submitted to the DEA. Comments can be made as a written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

In terms of the NEMA Amendment Act a **40-day review period** will be allowed for **commenting authorities / organs of state** to submit their comments on the draft Scoping Report to the Department of Environmental Affairs. Please could you kindly provide the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project.

By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the EIA process.

In order to facilitate comments on the Draft Scoping Report, a **public meeting** will be held during the review period for the Draft Scoping Report as follows:

Date:	Wednesday, 25 September 2013
Time:	18h00
Venue:	Jinnah Park Community Hall – 12 Mia Street, Bela-Bela

Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Wood', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

MRS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL