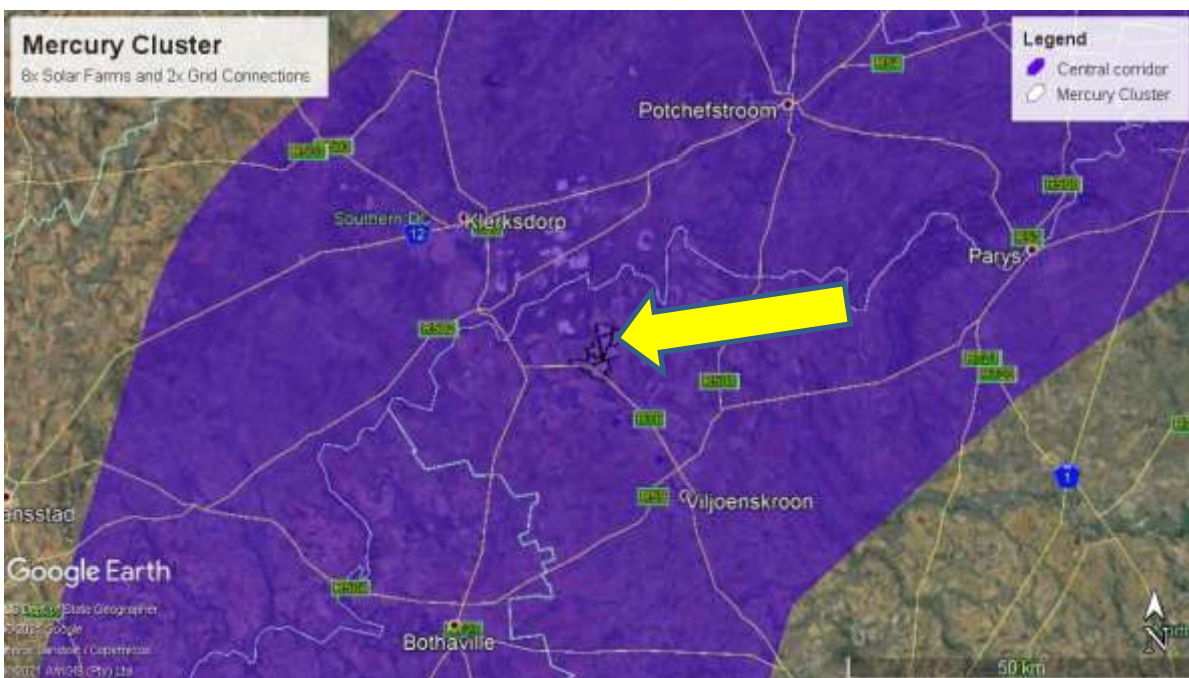
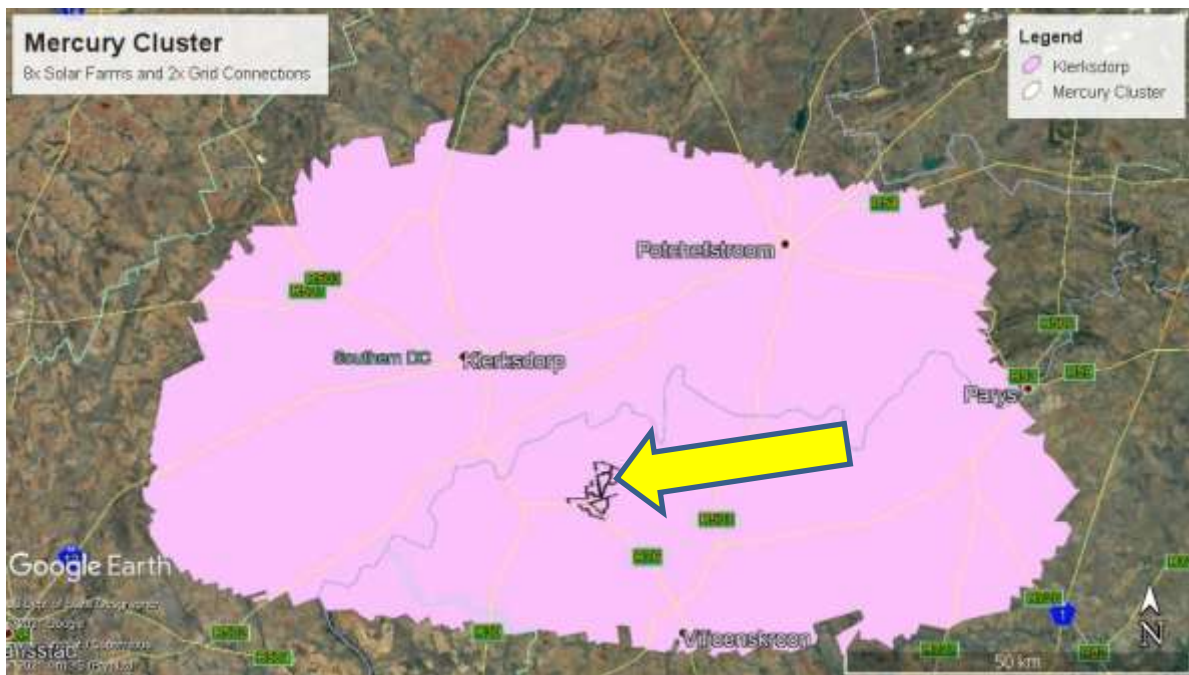


PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Application for Environmental Authorisation for the Mercury Cluster: 8x Solar PV Farms and 2x Grid Connections Viljoenskroon, Free State

Please note that the entire project site falls within the Klerksdorp REDZ as well as the Central Strategic Corridor and Basic Assessments will therefore be undertaken.



The following public participation actions are proposed in order to comply with Regulation 41 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 and to allow for Lockdown Levels 1-3.

Combination of 12x applications during the Public Participation Process

Twelve Environmental Authorisations will be obtained in twelve separate applications but the public participation for the twelve projects will be combined, because:

- The 12 projects are in close proximity to each other (refer to the maps above)
- The 12 projects fall within the same local and district municipalities
- Twelve projects are for solar PV farms and two projects are for the associated grid connections and the same issues are therefore applicable

Advertisements, onsite notices and first phase notifications (BIDs) to IAPs

- Newspaper advertisement will be placed in 1x local and 1x regional newspaper
 - One advertisement will advertise all 12 projects
- Onsite notifications will be placed on each site and/or close to the site on a nearby road
 - The twelve projects will be advertised on the same notice
- Background Information Documents (BIDs) will be distributed to everyone on the IAP Register (to be updated throughout the BA process). BIDs will be distributed via email and post where email addresses are not available.
 - One BID will advertise all 12 projects

The above advertisements, notices and notifications will clearly state the following:

Clearly indicate to which of the twelve applications you refer when comment is provided.

Online stakeholder engagement

- *Please note that all identified IAPs have email addresses.*
- The email addresses of the local municipality might however not work and letters would therefore be posted via registered post.
- There are no local communities that will be directly affected by this substation and grid connection project:
 - There are no housing structures in close proximity to the proposed development areas.
 - The site areas are directly surrounded by approved solar PV farms (Vetlaagte has valid EAs and the EAs for the Wag 'n Bietjie PV farm have lapsed but applications may be submitted in the future).
- All applicable ward councillors will be informed of the project - any special public participation needs would be mentioned by them and Landscape Dynamics will respond in an appropriate manner.

Furthermore, the following will apply:

- Microsoft Teams / Zoom meetings will be held where required. Such meetings may be requested by IAPs or identified by the EAPs.
- The cell numbers of the two EAPs responsible for this project will be clearly indicated in all notices / advertisements and IAPs will therefore be able to communicate via sms and/or WhatsApp.

- “Please call me” messages will be responded to and will be paid for by Landscape Dynamics.
- The notifications sent to IAPs advertising the Draft BAR for comment will clearly state that hard copies of the Draft BAR will be made available upon request at an easily accessible address.
- An Executive Summary will be attached to the notification emails and it will also be made available on the Landscape Dynamics website as a separate document, thereby ensuring an easy and cheap download.

The above measures will be applicable to all phases of the project.

Distribution of Draft BAR

The *Draft BAR* will be distributed to everyone on the IAP Register as follows:

- Emails will have the relevant documentation as an attachment and reference will be made to the Landscape Dynamics website where the BAR as well as all addendums can be accessed.
- Letters will be posted to IAPs where email addresses are not available.
- Should any organisation / person specifically request a hard copy of the BAR, such a document will be made available.

Commenting period

A 30-day commenting period is proposed. As per standard procedure, extension of the commenting period would be granted should a request for extension be requested.

Final BAR

The Final Report will include comment received on the Draft BAR and responses thereto as well as any amendment to the Report where deemed applicable. Should the amendments be non-substantial, the Final Report will be submitted to DEADP for issuing / refusal of the EA within the prescribed 90-day period.

Should amendments to the Report be substantial, the Final BAR would have to be distributed for public comment for an additional 30 days. Should this be the case, a 50 day extension could be requested as per Chapter 5, Section 32(1b).

POPIA

The stipulations in POPIA will be followed in order to protect the privacy of the IAPs.

Closure

Landscape Dynamics believes that the public participation programme as mentioned above will allow for reasonable and fair opportunities for all IAPs to provide comment on the application and that stipulations as per the EIA Regulations will be adhered to.
