
BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT:

PROPOSED HALFGEWONNEN SOLAR PV FACILITY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Applicant (Dreamworks Haven Investments Pty Ltd) proposes to develop the Halfgewonnen Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities on Portions 7, 8, 9 and 16 of the Farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS in the Mpumalanga Province.

The total proposed Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facility will generate approximately 80 Mega Watts (MW) of electricity. The proposed Halfgewonnen Solar PV Project comprises of two components:

- Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facility 1 will generate approximately 20 Mega Watts (MW) for initial use by the immediately surrounding mines. Construction is expected to take approximately 10 months. The total development footprint will not exceed 30 Ha.
- Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facility 2 will generate approximately 60 MW for distribution into the National Grid. Construction is expected to take approximately 12 months. The total development footprint will be about 60 Ha.

The Project will form part of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) renewable energy independent power producer procurement programme (REIPPP).

2. LEGAL CONTEXT

Prior to development of the proposed project, The Applicant must obtain authorisation in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as Amended) for activities identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Authorisation will also be required in terms of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No 36 of 1998), for the potential placement of infrastructure in proximity to water resources.

Cabanga Environmental has been appointed by Dreamworks Haven Investments Pty Ltd to act as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) and to manage the required application process and associated public participation process.

3. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document (the Background Information Document or "BID") has been compiled to provide Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), with information on the proposed project and the associated environmental authorisation application process.

The reader is hereby invited to participate freely and submit any questions or information that may contribute to the process. All comments received will be recorded and addressed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return to us on Fax: 011 794 6946 or info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za to register as an I&AP. Alternatively, please contact us by telephone or e-mail at the details provided herein.

4. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Cabanga Environmental undertook a desktop environmental sensitivity analysis and feasibility investigation on various Portions of the Farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS. Portions of Portion 7, 8, 9 and 16 of the Farm Halfgewonnen 190 IS are proposed for development of the Solar PV Project.

The total proposed Halfgewonnen Solar PV Facility will generate approximately 80 Mega Watts (MW) of power in total, 20MW will be available for the immediately surrounding mining activities, while 60MW will be for distribution into the National Grid.

Three alternative powerline routes are considered to connect the proposed solar plant to the National Grid – via one of the three existing 88kv Eskom substations (i.e., Halfgewonnen South, Forzando and Ysterkop).

Please refer to the maps and illustrations appended to this BID.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

An application for an environmental authorisation has been submitted to the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF), as required by NEMA.

A Scoping and EIA Process will be followed. The steps in this process are briefly outlined below:

- Pre-Application: meeting with DEFF to discuss the project, approach to the application and public participation.
- Submit Application Form to DEFF.
- **Public Participation** Phase 1: Notification
 - Submit Public Participation Plan to DEFF for approval.
 - Identify I&APs.
 - Circulate BIDs, place site notices and advertisements.
- Compile Draft Scoping Report (and Plan of Study for EIA), to identify potential impacts, necessary specialist inputs etc.
- **Public Participation** Phase 2: Scoping – Make the Draft Scoping Report available to I&APs for review and comment.
- Finalise Scoping Report (including all comments received and responses thereto) and submit to DEFF for consideration.
- Undertake Specialist Assessments to better understand the potential environmental impacts of the project and management options.
- Once DEFF approves the Scoping Report and Plan of Study for EIA, compile the Draft EIA and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Reports.
- **Public Participation** Phase 3: EIA – make the Draft EIA/EMP Report available for public review. Invite all I&APs to a public meeting (virtual or physical depending on the health and safety regulations applicable at the time) to present the findings of the specialist assessments.
- Finalise EIA/EMP Report including all comments received from I&APs and responses thereto, and submit to the DEFF for consideration.
- **Public Participation** Phase 4: Inform I&APs of the decision reached by the DEFF once the decision is communicated to the EAP. The notification will also include details of the available appeal processes.

Review of draft documents will be undertaken for a period of 30 days (excluding public holidays) for each phase. Registered I&APs will be informed throughout the application process of availability of reports and schedules of meetings. All comments received (and responses thereto) throughout the process will be captured in a Comment and Response Report that will also be available for public review.

6. LISTED ACTIVITIES

The following table summarises the list of activities identified in terms of NEMA as included in the application for environmental authorisation:

No	Description
Listing Notice 1 Activities	
11	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of electricity— (i) outside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of more than 33 but less than 275 kilovolts; or (ii) inside urban areas or industrial complexes with a capacity of 275 kilovolts or more;
12	The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 100 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback exists, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; —
Listing Notice 2 Activities	
1	The development of facilities or infrastructure for the generation of electricity from a renewable resource where the electricity output is 20 megawatts or more.
4	The development and related operation of facilities or infrastructure, for the storage, or storage and handling of a dangerous good, where such storage occurs in containers with a combined capacity of more than 500 cubic metres.
15	The clearance of an area of 20 hectares or more of indigenous vegetation
Listing Notice 3 Activities	
12	The clearance of an area of 300 square metres or more of indigenous vegetation, (f) in Mpumalanga, (ii) Within critical biodiversity areas identified in bioregional plans
14	The development of— (ii) infrastructure or structures with a physical footprint of 10 square metres or more; where such development occurs— (a) within a watercourse; or (c) if no development setback has been adopted, within 32 metres of a watercourse, measured from the edge of a watercourse; (f) in Mpumalanga, (i) outside urban areas (ff) in critical biodiversity areas or ecosystem service areas as identified in systematic biodiversity plans adopted by the competent authority or in bioregional plans

7. WATER USES

The lead authority for the authorisation of water uses in terms of the National Water Act (NWA) is the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation (DHSWS).

Water requirements for the project are expected to be minimal and restricted to that of potable use (drinking water for employees) and wash water for maintenance of the PV Panels. This water will be brought onto site and no abstraction of ground or surface water will be undertaken directly by the Project. Development of infrastructure in close proximity to watercourses also requires a water use license in certain circumstances.

The applicant will apply for the necessary water use authorisations prior to commencing the development and a separate public participation process will be followed as part of that application in due course.

8. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following **potential and preliminary** impacts have been identified at this stage of the project, and will be investigated further (along with potential additional impacts that may be identified as the studies and application process progress):

- Loss of agricultural land capability.
- Soil contamination, erosion or compaction.
- Impact on sensitive flora, fauna and/or terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems.
- Impacts on water quality and availability.
- Loss of Wetlands.
- Dust generation.
- Visual Impacts.
- Accidental damage to previously undiscovered Heritage resources.

Should you be aware of any additional potential impacts please bring this to the EAP's attention by completing the attached questionnaire.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public involvement is an essential component of the environmental assessment and application process. It addresses the right of I&APs to be informed of the proposed activities and to be involved in decisions that may affect them. It enables I&APs to contribute local knowledge to the assessment process. It also affords the environmental assessment practitioner (EAP) the opportunity to assess and address the issues and concerns raised by I&APs thus allowing the assessment of all the potential impacts of the proposed project.

10. INVITATION TO COMMENT:

The Reader is invited to participate in the Application process, by registering as an I&AP. As a Registered I&AP you will be kept informed of the Application processes, invited to attend public meetings and review draft reports compiled in terms of the applications. Furthermore, all comments that registered I&APs submit in terms of the Applications will be included in the relevant reports, and addressed throughout the process.

TO REGISTER: please provide us with your comments and contact details as soon as possible. The Draft Scoping Report is being prepared and will be made available for public comment soon. Details of the availability of the Report will be communicated to Registered I&APs. You are welcome to register and provide your comments at any time throughout the application process.



Contact Us:

Lelani Claassen

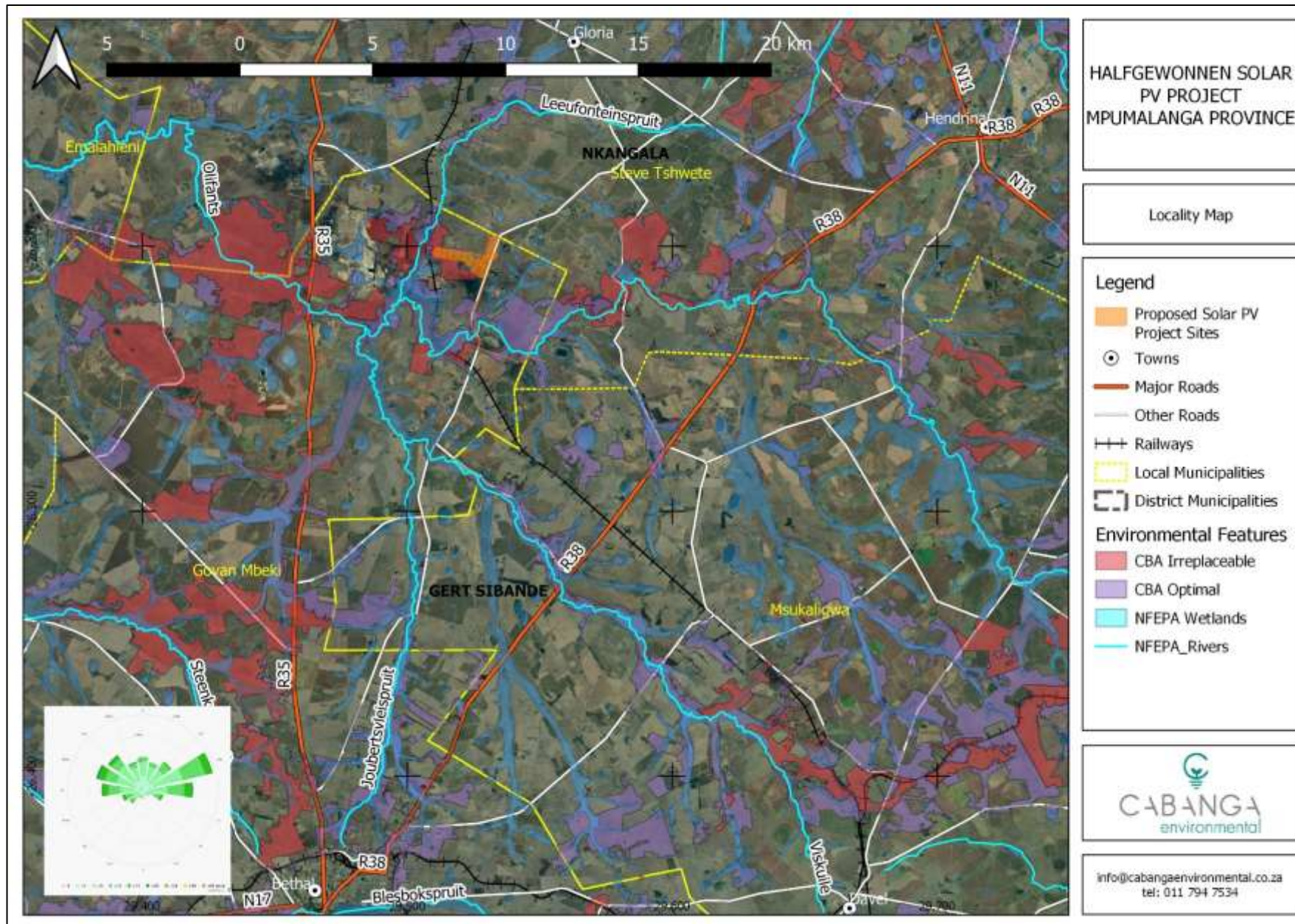
Pr.Sci.Nat 121645

Registered EAP 2018/153

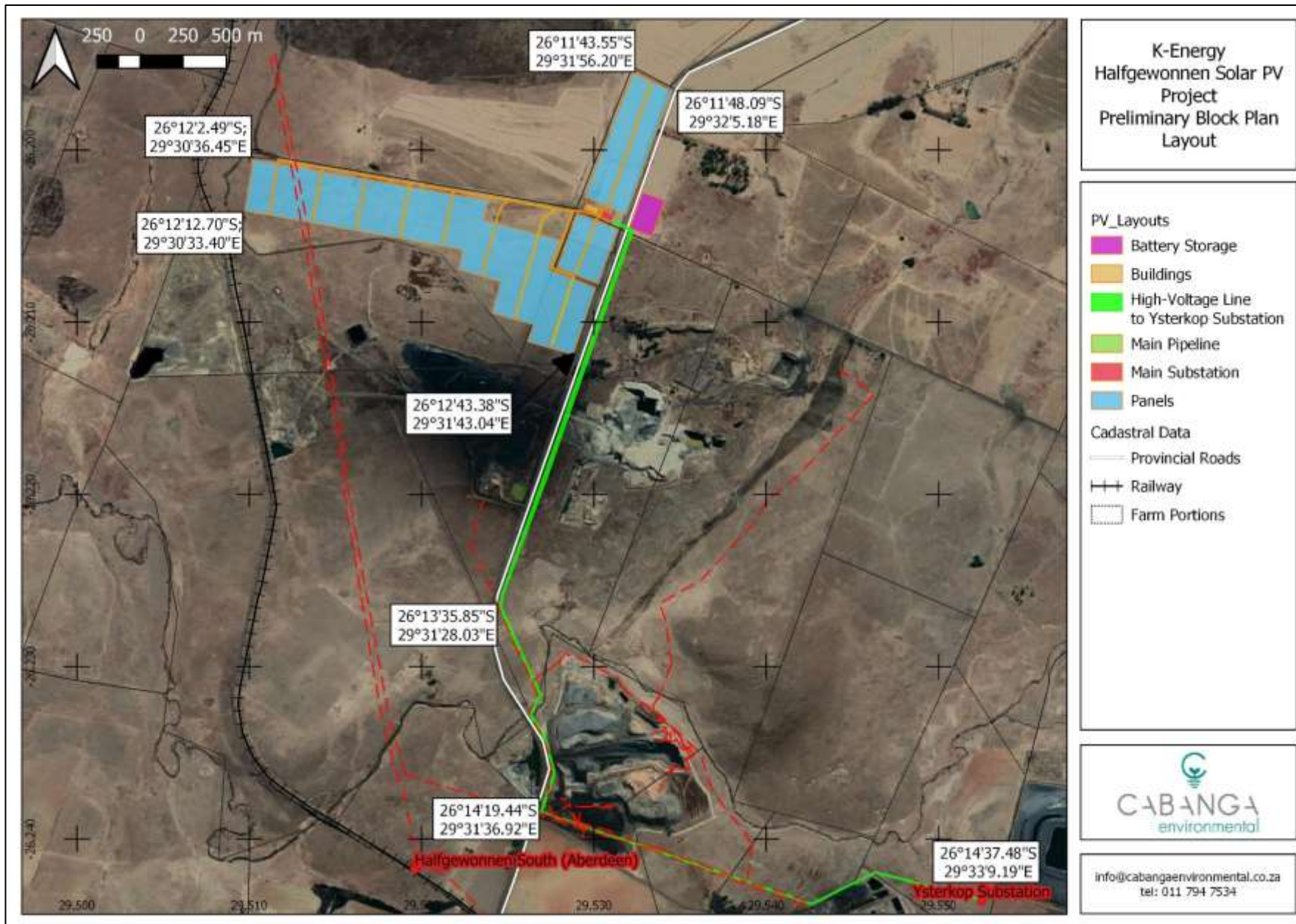
Tel: 011 794 7534

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info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za



Plan 1: Regional Plan



Plan 2: Block-Plan proposed Layout

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION QUESTIONNAIRE: HALFGEWONNEN SOLAR PV FACILITY

To register as an I&AP, please complete and return to Cabanga via e-mail, fax or post:

Fax: (011) 794 6946
 info@cabangaenvironmental.co.za;
 Postnet Suite 470, P/Bag X3, Northriding, 2162

Alternatively, please register on
www.cabangaenvironmental.co.za
click on "Public Participation"

Name:		Surname:	
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Telephone No.:		Fax No.:	
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Post:	
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E-mail:	
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How would you prefer to be contacted?	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Fax <input type="checkbox"/> Post <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> SMS
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Are you an immediately affected or adjacent land owner or user? If no, what is your interest in the project? If yes, please indicate your farm / property name as well as details on the current land use.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Do you have any vested interest in the approval or refusal of this project? If yes, please elaborate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Do you feel that the proposed activities will impact on you and / or your socio-economic conditions? How?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Are you aware of any additional impacts not yet identified?	
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Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided (i.e. graves, cultural sites, endangered species, special environmental features or areas etc.)	
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Do you have any alternative mitigation measures to propose?	
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Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified? Please provide contact details.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Do you have any additional comments, concerns or queries? (please feel free to submit separate sheets)	
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