

15 June 2015

Dear Stakeholder

**BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS
THREE HARMONY PV SOLAR FACILITIES, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

NOTIFICATION OF BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

BBEntropie (Pty) Ltd, an Independent Power Producer (IPP), proposes the establishment of three small-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) facilities and associated infrastructure on sites located within the boundary of properties owned by the Harmony Gold Mining Company Ltd near Odendaalsrus in the Free State Province. The three PV facilities are referred to as:

1. Harmony Tshepong PV Solar Facility
2. Harmony Eland PV Solar Facility
3. Harmony Nyala PV Solar Facility

Each facility will have a generating capacity of up to 10MW. The purpose of the proposed project is to generate electricity for exclusive use by the Harmony Gold Mining Company Ltd. The facilities will supply power to the substations on the Mine's property located at the Tshepong Shaft, the Nyala Shaft and the Eland Shaft. The construction of the PV facilities aims to reduce the Harmony Gold Mining Company's dependency on direct supply from Eskom's National grid for operation activities, while simultaneously decreasing their carbon footprint.

Three sites located within the boundary of Harmony Gold Mining Company's property have been identified for the construction of the PV facilities.

Although all of the sites identified for the proposed PV facilities are located within a mine boundary and have been historically disturbed, no active mining activity has taken place on these sites. Table 1 below provides details on the farm portions identified for the development of each PV facility; the grid connection options being considered for each PV facility; and the extent of the development footprint proposed for each PV facility.

Table 1: Harmony PV Facilities – Project Specific Details

Project Name	Affected Farm Portions	Grid Connection
Harmony Tshepong PV Solar Facility	» Farm Free State Geduld 448	Anglo Geduld Substation
Harmony Eland PV Solar Facility	» Farm Rietpan RE/17 » Farm Tochgekregen RE/99 » Farm Wesselia 101	Blinkpoort Shaft Substation.
Harmony Nyala PV Solar Facility	» Farm Rietpan RE/17 » Farm Rheederpark 443	Freguls Five Substation

The proposed sites are located within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality and Lejweleputswa District Municipality.

Each PV facility will include the following infrastructure:

- » Photovoltaic (PV) panels of between up to 6m in height with a contracted capacity of up to 10MW.
- » Mounting structures to be either rammed steel piles or piles with pre-manufactured concrete footing to support the PV panels.
- » Cabling between the project components, to be lain in trenches ~ 1-2m deep.
- » Power inverters between the PV arrays.
- » Transformers and a mini-substation.
- » An overhead power line for the distribution of the generated power which will be connected to the relevant substation for each site.
- » A main external access road that leads to the development site and minor internal roads between the PV arrays.
- » Office, workshop area for maintenance and storage.
- » A water pipeline to transport water from the mine's existing water network to the PV facility.
- » Lighting and fencing will be available in and around the facility for security and visibility purposes.
- » During construction (temporary infrastructure) such as laydown areas will also be required.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of the EIA Regulations of December 2014 (Government Notice 983 – 986 published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; No. 107 1998)), the construction of the proposed facility is a listed activity requiring environmental authorisation. As the projects comprise of electricity generation facilities with a generating capacity of less than 10MW, and which occupies an area in excess 1ha each, the undertaking of a Basic Assessment

process is required. This process involves the identification and assessment of environmental impacts through specialist studies, as well as public participation.

In support of an application for environmental authorisation for the project, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations of December 2014. BBEntropie has appointed **Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd**, as the independent environmental consultant, to undertake the required environmental assessments to identify and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed projects, and propose appropriate mitigation and management measures in a Basic Assessment Report. Three separate applications for environmental authorisation have been submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the competent authority, and a separate Basic Assessment is being undertaken for each PV facility. As part of the environmental assessment process, I&APs will be actively involved through the public involvement process.

The department and/or the organisation which you represent has been identified as a commenting authority for the proposed project. **In this regard, please can you provide us with 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 Basic Assessment process.

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

Kind Regards

MRS GABRIELE WOOD
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL CONSULTANT
SAVANNAH ENVIRONMENTAL

(not signed, sent via email)