

**APPENDIX C6**  
**COMMENTS RECEIVED**



Comments received during the 30-day  
review & comment period of the EIAr to be  
included in the Final EIAr

# **SCOPING PHASE**

## Savannah Public Process

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**From:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <MelatoB@dws.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 August 2022 12:26  
**To:** Savannah Public Process  
**Cc:** Grobler Willem (BFN)  
**Subject:** FW: SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment  
**Attachments:** SE3270-Harmony\_1\_Plant\_Solar\_PV\_Notification(BID&SR)-FINAL.pdf; SE3270-Harmony\_One\_Plant\_BID-FINAL.pdf; SE3270-Harmony\_One\_PV\_RegComm\_Form-FINAL.pdf; SE3270: HARMONY TARGET SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment; SE3270: HARMONY JOEL SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment

Good day,

Your e-mail below is noted. Kindly send a hard copy of the scoping reports to this office for comments. The documents must be addressed as follows:

Attention: Dr T Ntili  
Department of Water and Sanitation  
Corner Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: Bloem Plaza Building  
Bloemfontein

Regards,  
Boitumelo Melato  
082 556 3497

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**From:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <GroblerW@dws.gov.za>  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 August 2022 10:45  
**To:** Melato Boitumelo (BFN) <MelatoB@dws.gov.za>  
**Subject:** FW: SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment

Morning Tumi,

Please find for your information

Regards

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**From:** Musekene Nkhumeleni <[MusekeneN2@dws.gov.za](mailto:MusekeneN2@dws.gov.za)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 26 August 2022 10:39  
**To:** Grobler Willem (BFN) <[GroblerW@dws.gov.za](mailto:GroblerW@dws.gov.za)>  
**Cc:** Maseloane Kereemang <[MaseloaneK@dws.gov.za](mailto:MaseloaneK@dws.gov.za)>  
**Subject:** FW: SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment

Good day Willem,

Please attend to the attached 3 scoping reports and provide inputs by the **20 September 2022**. The reports are for the following projects:

- SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment
- SE3270: HARMONY TARGET SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment
- SE3270: HARMONY JOEL SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment

Regards  
Mr Nkhume Musekene

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**From:** Savannah Environmental Public Process <[publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 August 2022 17:48

**To:** Musekene Nkhumeleni <[MusekeneN2@dws.gov.za](mailto:MusekeneN2@dws.gov.za)>

**Subject:** E3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Process and Availability of Scoping Report for review and comment

You don't often get email from [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY, ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE  
LOCATED NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE  
(DESTEA Reference No.: To be Issued)**

Dear Stakeholder and Interested & Affected Party,

Freegold Harmony (Pty) Ltd (a subsidiary of Harmony Gold Mining Company Ltd) is looking to supplement its energy supply by implementing Photovoltaic (PV) generation, aiding their transition to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy mix.

The development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) facility with a generating capacity of 30MW is proposed south-west of the Witpan dam, south of the Harmony One Gold Plant operations, approximately ~14km north west of the town of Virginia within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality and within the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province. The PV facility is located on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Marmageli 20 and Remaining Extent of the Farm Welkom 80 and is owned by the Mine. The solar PV development will be known as Harmony One Plant Solar PV Facility.

The nature and extent of the solar PV facility is explored in more detail in this Background Information Document (BID). A full Scoping and Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) process is being undertaken in order to obtain Environmental Authorisation (EA) for the development of the PV facility and associated infrastructure. The public participation process provides the public with an opportunity to comment on the project.

Please find attached for your perusal the following documents:

- Background Information Document; and
- Notification of availability of the Scoping Report.

The Scoping Report is available for downloading from our website [click here](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any additional information and/or clarification regarding these projects.

Our team welcomes your participation and look forward to your involvement throughout the Environmental Impact Assessment Process.

Kind regards,

[Unsubscribe this type of email](#)



t: 011 656 3237  
f: 086 684 0547

**Nicolene Venter**

Public Process

e: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)  
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

SAWEA Award for Leading Environmental Consultant on Wind Projects in 2013 & 2015



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Enquiries: B Melato  
Telephone: 051 405 9263  
Reference: 16/2/7/C404/D1/3

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd  
P O Box 148  
**SUNNINGHILL**  
2157

Dear Sir/Madam

### **DRAFT SCOPING REPORT: HARMONY ONE SOLAR PV FACILITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE**

Reference is hereby made to the document submitted to this Department dated August 2022 for the above-mentioned project as presented to this Department by Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd.

This office has evaluated the Draft Scoping Report and the comments are as follows.

- The applicant must take note that any development within 500m from the boundary of any wetland requires to be authorised according to the Department's regulation. The authorisation must be obtained prior commencement of the project.
- The applicant must clearly state where water for this project will be obtained from and for which stages of the project will it be used. The volumes of water to used must be clearly stated.
- Soil and stormwater management must be put in place through all stages of the project.
- All sections of the National Environmental Act: Waste Act (Act 59 of 2008) pertaining to the disposal of waste must be adhered to.
- All fuel and lubricants must be stored in sealed containers at least 100m from the nearest water course and all reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent any possible pollution.
- Sanitary conveniences which causes or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource should not be located within the 1:50 year flood line or 100m of any watercourse or borehole.
- The applicant shall further note that in terms of Section 19(1) of the National Water Act: Act 36 of 1998 it is stated that: *An owner of land, a person in control of land or a person who occupies or uses the land on which – (a) any activity or process is or was performed or undertaken, or (b) any other situation exists, which causes, has caused or likely to cause pollution to a water resource must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution from occurring, continuing or recurring*". Therefore, any pollution incident(s) originating from this project shall be reported to Department of Water Sanitation: Free State Operations within 24 hours.
- All the commitments stipulated in the various parts of this report must be adhered to and any deviations must be reported to this Department.



**NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
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- Further comments, if any, will be provided during the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

You are welcome to contact Ms B Melato at telephone: 051 405 9000 or on e-mail: melatob@dws.gov.za should you have any enquiries.

Yours sincerely,

Dr T Ntini  
PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE

DATE: 20/9/22



**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: info@sahra.org.za  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
www.sahra.org.za

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Tel: 0212028663  
Email: sngcatsha@sahra.org.za  
CaseID: 19408

Date: Wednesday September 07, 2022  
Page No: 1

## **Interim Comment**

**In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

**The development of a renewable energy facility, overhead powerline and associated infrastructure is proposed by FREEGOLD HARMONY PTY LTD. The project entails the development of a Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Energy Facility and associated infrastructure with a capacity of up to 30MW over 75ha of land and will be known as Harmony Central Plant Solar PV, the facility will include a grid connection and other associated infrastructure. H Harmony One Plant Solar PV is based near Harmony 1 Gold Plant operations located in the Town of Welkom and ~14km Northwest of the town of Virginia within the Matjhabeng Local Municipality respectively, and within the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Free State Province.**

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Free Gold Harmony (Pty) Ltd to undertake the Environmental Authorisation (EA) Application for the proposed development of Harmony One Solar PV Facility on the remaining extent of the Farm Marmageli 20 and the remainder of Extent of the Farm welkom 80 near Virginia, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Free State.

The Scoping Report has been submitted in terms of the Nation Environmental Management Act (NEMA Act No. 107 of 1998) and the 2014 NEMA EIA regulation. The development footprint is about 310ha and the capacity of the PV facility will be 30MW. The associated infrastructure for the development includes a grid connection and other associated infrastructure.

CTS Heritage and Prof Marion Bamford were appointed to provide heritage specialist input into the EA process as per section 24(4)b(iii) of NEMA and section 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA) that complies with section 38(3) of the NHRA.

*Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Screener: Proposed development of the Harmony PV Facility near Welkom*

It is unlikely that significant heritage resources will be impacted by the development, however burial grounds

# Proposed development of the Development of 18MWac Harmony One Solar PV Facility, Theunissen, Free State Province

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
P.O. Box 4637 | Cape Town | 8001  
[www.sahra.org.za](http://www.sahra.org.za)

Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Tel: 0212028663  
Email: [sngcatsha@sahra.org.za](mailto:sngcatsha@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 19408

Date: Wednesday September 07, 2022  
Page No: 2

may be present within the development area, therefore it is recommended that a specialist is appointed to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment which assesses likely impacts to archaeological and palaeontological heritage. The development area is underlain by the Adelaide Subgroup of the Beaufort Group and Quaternary Sands. There is a very small chance that fossils from the Adelaide Subgroup below the ground surface may be disturbed and it is recommended that a Fossil Chance Find Protocol be implemented during development.

*Lavin, J. 2022. Heritage Impact Assessment: Proposed development of the Development of 18MWac Harmony Joel Solar PV Facility, Theunissen, Free State Province*

Out of context stone artefact scatters (HM1-HM3) along with demolished and dilapidated historical structures (HM5-HM8) were identified. These are of low heritage significance. Site HM4 is a concentration of Middle Stone Age artefacts with a grade IIIC significance.

## Recommendations

Site HM4 is located in the alternative area for the proposed development and a 30m buffer is recommended to be maintained around it.

*Bamford, M. 2022. Desktop Study: Palaeontological Impact Assessment for the proposed development of the Harmony Harmony PV Facility, southwest of Welkom, Free State Province*

The preferred development site lies on the potentially fossiliferous Adelaide Subgroup (Beaufort Group, Karoo Supergroup) and the alternative site lies on moderately sensitive Quaternary sands and alluvium. The area has been disturbed by farming and mining activities and no vertebrate fossils have been reported. No potential traps for Quaternary fossils are visible from the satellite imagery. A Fossil Chance Find Protocol has been attached and it should be added to the EMPr.

## Interim Comment

The SAHRA APM Unit notes the heritage specialist studies along with the recommendations provided therein. Further comments will be issued once the Draft EIA report and its appendices has been submitted to the case.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

Yours faithfully

**Proposed development of the Development of 18MWac Harmony One Solar PV Facility, Theunissen, Free State Province**

**Our Ref:**



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

T: +27 21 462 4502 | F: +27 21 462 4509 | E: [info@sahra.org.za](mailto:info@sahra.org.za)  
South African Heritage Resources Agency | 111 Harrington Street | Cape Town  
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Enquiries: Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Tel: 0212028663  
Email: [sngcatsha@sahra.org.za](mailto:sngcatsha@sahra.org.za)  
CaseID: 19408

Date: Wednesday September 07, 2022  
Page No: 3

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Sityhilelo Ngcatsha  
Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine  
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <https://sahris.sahra.org.za/node/604266>



**destea**

department of  
economic, small business development,  
tourism and environmental affairs  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

**Ref Nr:** EMS/12(ii)(a)(c), 14, 19, 24(ii), 1, 15, 4(b)(i)(gg),  
10(b)(i)(gg)(hh), 12(b)(i), 14(ii)(a)(b)(i)(hh)/22/11  
**NEAS Ref Nr:** FSP/EIA/0000476/2022  
**Enquiries:** Mr. Tlotliso Hanong  
**Tel no:** 051 400 4804  
**Email:** [hanongt@destea.gov.za](mailto:hanongt@destea.gov.za)

To: Ansone Esterhuizen,

**Savannah Environmental**

First Floor, Block 2, 5 Woodlands Drive Office Park,  
C/o Woodlands Drive & Western Service Road  
Woodmead  
Johannesburg  
2191

Cell: 076 714 1234

Email address: [ansone@savanahsa.co.za](mailto:ansone@savanahsa.co.za)

Dear Ansone Esterhuizen,

**RE: ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A 18MW JOEL SOLAR PV FACILITY, NEAR THEUNISSEN, MASILONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.**

The Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEА) - "The Department" has reviewed draft Scoping report received on 08 September 2022 for the above-mentioned project. The following need to be corrected and/or included when submitting the Final Scoping report:

- Provide two (2) hard copies and one (1) soft copy of Final Scoping Report.
- Provide a Civil Aviation Compliance Statement in accordance with the Screening Tool Protocols.
- A signed declaration of interest for the Social Impact Report.
- A signed declaration of interest for the Visual Impact Study.
- All comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs must be included in the final Scoping Report.



**destea**

department of  
economic, small business development,  
tourism and environmental affairs  
FREE STATE PROVINCE

Please note that the applied activity may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation been granted by this Department.

Regards,

**Mr. V. Hlazo**

**Environmental Officer Production Grade B: EIM**

Date:

30/09/2022

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & PROTECTION  
Private Bag X 20801 Bloemfontein 9300  
Tel +27 (0)51 400 4917  
Fax +27 (0)51 400 4842  
e-mail: nkoen@destea.gov.za

[www.destea.gov.za](http://www.destea.gov.za)