

APPENDIX C8
COMMENTS & RESPONSES REPORT



To be included in the
Final EIA

SCOPING PHASE

HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY, ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AND ELECTRICAL GRID INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATED NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE PROVINCE

**(DESTEA Reference No.: EMS/11(i), 12 (ii) (a) cc, 14, 19, 24 (ii), I, 15, 4 (b) (i) (gg), 12 (b) (i), 14 (ii) (a) (b) (i) (hh)/22/13
NEAS Ref No.: FSP/EIA/0000478/2022)**

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REPORT

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Information regarding the Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment (S&EIA) and Public Participation processes for the proposed Harmony One Plant Solar PV as well as technical project details, was made available with the distribution of the Background Information Document (BID) on **Wednesday, 24 August 2022**. The BID served to invite Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to register their interest in the project and to submit any comments / queries that they might have. The cover letter accompanying the BID served to notify I&APs that the Scoping Report is available for review and comment.

The Scoping Report was made available for a 30-day review and comment period from **Wednesday, 24 August 2022** to **Friday, 23 September 2022**. All written comments received on the Scoping Report have been included in this Comments and Responses Report (C&RR) which is being submitted with the final Scoping Report to the Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) for their acceptance.

The C&RR is included as **Appendix C8** as a separate document to the final Scoping Report.

Note: Comments received have been captured verbatim and have not been edited for typing or grammatical errors.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / ACRONYMS

APM	Archaeology Palaeontology & Meteorite Unit	HC	Hard Copy
DESTEA	Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs	SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Agency
DWS	Department of Water and Sanitation	SAHRIS	South African Heritage Information System

1 COMMENTS SUBMITTED DURING THE SCOPING REPORT COMMENTING PERIOD

1.1 Organs of State

No.	Comment	Raised by	Response
1.	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 Ntuli Department of Water and Sanitation Corner Charlotte Maxeke and East Burger 2nd Floor: Bloem Plaza Building Bloemfontein	Boitumelo Melato Administrator DWS E-mail: 31 August 2022	The request for a HC of the Scoping Report was acknowledged and the HC of the Scoping Report was courier on 28 August 2022 (proof included in Appendix C4: OoS Correspondence).
2.	This office has evaluated the Draft Scoping Report and the comments are as follows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	Letter: 20 September 2022	<p>The comment has been noted, where applicable the applicant will proceed with obtaining a water use license or general authorization from DWS for any infringement within regulated areas.</p> <p>Water for construction purposes will be sourced from the Target mining facility, elements such as dust suppression will fall within the scope</p> <p>A comprehensive storm water management has been recommended as part of the requirements for authorization to ensure that all freshwater systems are maintained</p> <p>The recommendations will be included within the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the project.</p>

No.	Comment	Raised by	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Further comments, if any, will be provided during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. 		<p>The recommendations will be included within the Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the project.</p> <p>All processes as stated in the Scoping Report, and in the event any water uses as defined in Section 21 of the Water Act will be adhered to as per the legislation.</p> <p>All processes followed are per the National Environmental Management act of 1997.</p>
3.	<p>Interim Comment</p> <p>The SAHRA APM Unit notes the heritage specialist studies along with the recommendations provided therein.</p> <p>Further comments will be issued once the Draft EIA report and its appendices has been submitted to the case.</p>	<p>Sityhilelo Ngcatsha Archaeology, Palaeontology, Meteorite Assistant</p> <p>and</p> <p>Philip Hine Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorite Unit SAHRA</p>	<p>The EIA Report and its appendices will be uploaded onto SAHRIS CaseID 19408 once available for review and comment.</p>

No.	Comment	Raised by	Response
		Letter: 07 September 2022	
4.	<p>The Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEА) - "The Department" has reviewed the 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Social Impact Report • All comments and inputs from stakeholders and I&APs must be included in the final Scoping Report. <p>Please note that the applied activity may not commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation been granted by this Department.</p>	<p>Tlotliso Hanong Case Officer DESTEА</p> <p>Letter: 30 September 2022</p>	<p>The request has been noted and the following has been provided:</p> <p>Two (2) hard copies and One (1) soft copy</p> <p>The request has been sent to the applicant and proof of application and correspondence with CAC will be provided with the draft EIA report</p> <p>Please see Appendix M – Specialist declaration for the signed social and visual declarations.</p> <p>All comments received from stakeholders and I&APs are included in Appendix C6: Comments Received of the final Scoping Report and have been captured in this C&RR that is attached as Appendix C8: Comments & Responses Report to the final Scoping Report.</p> <p>This comment has been noted, no activity will take place without the proper authorizations in place.</p>

1.2 Key Stakeholders and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs)

No	Comment	Raised by	Response
	No Comments received		