

APPENDIX C6
COMMENTS RECEIVED



Savannah Public Process

From: Makwadi Moloi <makwadi.moloi@dalrrd.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 21 November 2022 14:07
To: Savannah Public Process
Cc: Hazel Tema
Subject: RE: SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Report available for review and comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Afternoon Nicolene

As per your email of the 11 November 2022, I have noted that the farms that you are talking about belongs to the mine so in this instance it will be of great idea to communicate with them.

For any clarity please contact Me.

Regards

Ms Makwadi Moloi
082 827 5988

From: Hazel Tema <Hazel.Tema@dalrrd.gov.za>
Sent: Monday, 14 November 2022 16:10
To: Makwadi Moloi <makwadi.moloi@dalrrd.gov.za>; Tina Ndiwa <Tina.Ndiwa@dalrrd.gov.za>
Subject: FW: SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Report available for review and comment

Good day

Please see the subjoined email and attached document from Nicolene Venter with details of the enquiry for further assistance and processing

Regards

Ms Hazel Tema
Directorate: Presidential Hotline and Call Centre
Tel: 012 407 4615

From: Wilkinson Rikhotso <Wilkinson.Rikhotso@dalrrd.gov.za> **On Behalf Of** Queries
Sent: Monday, 14 November 2022 09:10
To: Hazel Tema <Hazel.Tema@dalrrd.gov.za>
Subject: FW: SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Report available for review and comment

EIA

From: Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:12 PM

To: Queries <Queries@dalrrd.gov.za>

Subject: SE3270: HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV - Notification of EIA Report available for review and comment

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated outside of "DALRRD Environment". CAUTION: Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**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)**

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Harmony One Plant Solar PV is available for review and comment from **11 November 2022** to **12 December 2022**. The report is available for download from the Savannah Environmental 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
c: +27 (0) 60 978 8396

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

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: Friday December 09, 2022
Page No: 1

Final Comment

In terms of Section 38(8), 38(4) 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.



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

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 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 IIC 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 EMP.

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
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: Friday December 09, 2022
Page No: 3

SAHRA issued an interim comment dated 07/09/2022 which noted the provided heritage specialist studies along with the recommendations provided therein and requested that the Draft EIA report and its appendices be submitted to the case before further comments are issued. The Draft EIA report was subsequently submitted to the case on the 14/11/2022.

Final Comment

The following comments are made as a requirement in terms of section 3(4) of the NEMA Regulations and section 38(8) of the NHRA in the format provided in section 38(4) of the NHRA and must be included in the Final EIA and EMPr:

- 38(4)a – The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) Unit has no objections to the proposed development;
- 38(4)b – The recommendations of the specialists are supported and must be adhered to. Further additional specific conditions are provided for the development as follows:
- If site HM4 cannot be avoided in the course of development, a destruction permit must be applied for from the Free State PHRA.
- 38(4)c(i) – If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, SAHRA APM Unit (Sityhilelo Ngcatsha/Phillip Hine 021 462 5402) must be alerted as per section 35(3) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)c(ii) – If unmarked human burials are uncovered, the SAHRA Burial Grounds and Graves (BGG) Unit (Thingahangwi Tshivhase/ Ngqabutho Madida 012 320 8490), must be alerted immediately as per section 36(6) of the NHRA. Non-compliance with section of the NHRA is an offense in terms of section 51(1)e of the NHRA and item 5 of the Schedule;
- 38(4)d – See section 51 of the NHRA regarding offences;

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
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: Friday December 09, 2022
Page No: 4

- 38(4)e – The following conditions apply with regards to the appointment of specialists:
- With reference to the mitigation work noted above, a qualified archaeologist must be appointed to undertake the work in terms of the permit applied for as noted above;
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, a professional archaeologist or palaeontologist, depending on the nature of the finds, must be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource. If the newly discovered heritage resources prove to be of archaeological or palaeontological significance, a Phase 2 rescue operation may be required subject to permits issued by SAHRA;
- The Final EIA and EMPr must be submitted to SAHRA for record purposes;
The decision regarding the EA Application must be communicated to SAHRA and uploaded to the SAHRIS Case application.

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

Yours faithfully

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

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
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: Friday December 09, 2022
Page No: 5

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>



water & sanitation

Department
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Makhura M
Telephone: 051 405 2133
Reference: 16/2/7/C404/D1

Savannah Environmental
First floor, block 2,5 woodlands drive office park,
Cnr Woodlands drive & western service road,
woodmwad,
2191

BY EMAIL

Email: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

For Attention: Nicolene Venter

CONSULTATION WITH REGARDS TO ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE.

APPLICANT: Free gold Harmony (Pty) Ltd.

DFFE REF: EMS/11(i), 12(ii) (a) cc, 14, 19, 24(ii), l, 15, 4(b)(i)(gg), 12(b)(i), 14(ii)(a)(b)(i)(hh)/22/13

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has assessed the submitted Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the proposed Harmony One Plant Solar PV Facility on portion 20 of farm Marmageli 20 and portion 20 remaining extent of farm Welkom 80.

1. It is indicated that grid connection power lines will be situated approximately 50m from the edge of the Widpan Dam. Please note that this Department does not allow any activity within a 500-metre radius of a wetland therefore a Water Use License will be required for Section 21 (c) & 21(i) Which are respectively defined as "impeding or diverting the flow of water in a watercourse" and "altering the bed, banks, course or characteristics of a watercourse under the National Water Act (NWA).
2. It is noted that the water that will be required for both construction and operation will be sourced directly from the Mine. However should the applicant intent to drill a borehole as additional source of water an application for section 21(a) water use will be required.
3. Storm water must be managed and channelled effectively also the details of the storm water management plan must be forwarded to the Local Municipality for approval.
4. It is important to note that responsibility rests with the applicant to ensure that the necessary authorisations required for undertaking any water uses as listed under Section 21 of the NWA are timeously applied for.

5. Notwithstanding the above, the responsibility rests with the applicant to identify any sources or potential sources of pollution from his undertaking and to take appropriate measures to prevent any pollution of the environment. Failure to comply with the requirements of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) could lead to legal action being instituted against the applicant.
6. In case of leakages or spillages of hydrocarbons this Department must be informed within 24 hours and immediate clean-up procedure must be conducted as stipulated in section 19 of the National Water Act; (Act 36 of 1998), any clean-up of the contaminants must be disposed of in a permitted hazardous landfill site and remediation report for the clean-up measures must be sent to the Department for comments before implementation.
7. In cases were the applicant intent to construct any underground installations (e.g., batteries), the applicant is required to provide this Department with any information regarding any underground installation. The applicant must also ensure to put measures to minimize the potential for leakage and contamination of water resources.
8. The applicant must ensure that all hazardous and domestic waste generated is disposed of at a licensed landfill site. A signed copy of service agreement shall be submitted to this Department to demonstrate that indeed provision will be made to render such services.

In conclusion it is recommended that the applicant should, at all times, take note of the pollution control provisions of the Section 19 (1) of the National Water Act 1998, which states that:

19 (1) 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 performed or undertaken; or

(b) any other situation exists which causes, has caused or is likely to cause pollution of a water resource, must take all reasonable measures to prevent any such pollution of a water resource, from occurring, continuing, or recurring.

The applicant is also requested to inform the DWS of any incidents that are likely to have a pollution impact on water resources in relation to the proposed activity, within 24 hours of the occurrence of such incidents

Regards

Dr T Ntuli
PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE
DATE:



Handwritten signature of Dr T Ntuli, dated 9/12/22.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT: HARMONY ONE SOLAR PV FACILITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

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

This office has evaluated the above-mentioned document and the comments that have been sent to your office dated 20 September 2022 still applies.

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 Ntjini
PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE

DATE:

10/10/2022



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Our Future - make it work



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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
Our Future - make it work


- 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 Ntsh
PROVINCIAL HEAD: FREE STATE

DATE:


20/9/22

COMMENTS OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 30 MW HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE.



destea

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

DESTEA Ref No: EMS11(i), 12(ii)(a)cc, 14, 19,
24(ii), 1, 15, 4(b)(i)(gg), 12(b)(i),
14(ii)(a)(b)(i)(hh)/2213
NEAS Ref No: FSP/EIA/0000478/2022
Enquiries: Ms. Boipelo Mogorosi
113 St. Andrews Building, Bloemfontein
Tel: (051) - 400 4815
E-mail: mogorosib@destea.gov.za

To: Jo-Anne Thomas

Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP)

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd

First Floor, Block 2

5 Woodlands Drive Office Park

C/o of Western Service Road and Woodlands Drive

Woodmead

2191

Cell No: 067 714 1234

Tel No: 011 656 3237

E-mail: joanne@savannahsa.com

Dear Jo-Anne,

COMMENTS OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 30 MW HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY NEAR WELKOM, FREE STATE.

After the review on the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Draft EIAR) for the above mentioned-development, the Department does not have any comments. Therefore, the applicant may continue to submit the final EIAR.

Regards,

Ms. B. Mogorosi

Environmental Officer Production Grade B: EIM

Date: 14/12/22

Sub- Directorate:
113 Saint Andrew Street
Bloemfontein
9300

Environmental Impact Management
Tel +27 (0)51 400 4812
E-mail: mkhosanag@destea.gov.za

www.destea.gov.za



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Pretoria, 0002 Tel: +27 12 399 9000, Fax: + 27 86 625 1042

Reference: Harmony One Plant Solar PV

Enquiries: Ms M Rabothata

Telephone: (012) 399 9174 **E-mail:** MRabothata@environment.gov.za

Ms. Chantelle Geyer
Savannah Environmental
P.O. Box 14805
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (+ 27) 11 656 3237
Email Address: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms. Geyer

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned Report.

Based on the information provided in the report, the site falls within the Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland (EN) vegetation type. However, the vegetation type is currently heavily affected by extensive transformation of agriculture, urban expansion and mining operations. Areas identified as Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA 1) represent remnant patches of the natural threatened Vaal-Vet Sandy Grassland which would therefore be regarded as being of very high conservation value. Large portions of the site have been completely transformed while significant disturbance is also present. The following were noted:

- Despite the largely transformed condition of the site, fairly large areas of remaining natural grassland are also still present, and these areas clearly have a high conservation value, The development footprint encroaching into the CBA 1 with very high and high sensitivity must be moved away from the development or be placed on heavily disturbed areas and must be completely avoided by any associated activities.
- The grid connection corridor is located within CBA1 areas. Linear activities, such as electricity lines, are generally permitted within CBA's, however, disturbance must be minimal.
- The natural pan wetlands in the north western portion of the site provide a higher abundance of resources and are also able to sustain a diverse and large mammal population. These wetland areas must be avoided and excluded from development.
- A grid connection powerline situated adjacent to the Witpan, an exceedingly large pan system located along the north eastern border of the site may however still have some impact on it. It is



COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR HARMONY ONE PLANT SOLAR PV FACILITY, FREE STATE PROVINCE

recommended that an appropriate buffer be established around medium sensitive habitats (i.e. Pans and Wetlands.)

- The total number of 88 bird species were observed on the study area. Approximately 11 threatened or near threatened species is known to be present in the wider study area with only three species recorded on the study area. However, a large percentage of the species recorded in the study area was represented by waterbirds and shorebird taxa. It is recommended that suitable bird repelling structures and bird diverters be considered to avoid collision of birds with the power line.

Therefore, the development may proceed to the next final stage of the EIA process provided the recommendations mentioned above and detailed in the report are adhered to and be considered in the final report.

The final report must comply with all the requirements as outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guideline for renewable energy projects and the Best Practice Guideline for Birds & Solar Energy for assessing and monitoring the impact of solar energy facilities on birds in Southern Africa.

In conclusion, please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of **Mr Seoka Lekota**.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment
Letter signed by: Mrs. MP Makitla
Designation: Control Biodiversity Officer Grade A
Date: 15/12/2022

SCOPING PHASE

Savannah Public Process

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
2nd Floor: Bloem Plaza Building
Bloemfontein

Regards,
Boitumelo Melato
082 556 3497

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

From: Musekene Nkhumeleni <MusekeneN2@dws.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 26 August 2022 10:39
To: Grobler Willem (BFN) <GroblerW@dws.gov.za>
Cc: Maseloane Kereemang <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

From: Savannah Environmental Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 24 August 2022 17:48

To: Musekene Nkhumeleni <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. [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
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

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
Our Future - make it work

- 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
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: 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
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: 3

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

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

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

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 (DESTEa) - "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