

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITIES ON FARM HOEKPLAAS NEAR COPPERTON, NORTHERN CAPE



NOVEMBER 2013



PLANTS	DEA REF NO	NEAS REF NO	PLANTS	DEA REF NO	NEAS REF NO
PV2	14/12/16/3/3/2/493	DEA/EIA/0001754/2013	PV7	14/12/16/3/3/2/498	DEA/EIA/0001759/2013
PV3	14/12/16/3/3/2/494	DEA/EIA/0001755/2013	PV8	14/12/16/3/3/2/499	DEA/EIA/0001760/2013
PV4	14/12/16/3/3/2/495	DEA/EIA/0001756/2013	PV9	14/12/16/3/3/2/500	DEA/EIA/0001761/2013
PV5	14/12/16/3/3/2/496	DEA/EIA/0001757/2013	PV10	14/12/16/3/3/2/501	DEA/EIA/0001762/2013
PV6	14/12/16/3/3/2/497	DEA/EIA/0001758/2013			

UPDATE OF DRAFT TO FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

This Update Page describes the process that were followed since the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs), for a 40-day comment period from 27 September 2013 until 5 November 2013. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the Draft EIAR in response to the public participation process, and briefly reiterates the next steps in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Process since the lodging of the Draft EIAR

The process since the lodging of the Draft EIAR has been as follows:

- The Draft EIAR was made available to the public in Prieska (Elizabeth Vermeulen) Public Library, letznietz Guest House in Copperton and on the Aurecon website (www.aurecongroup.com - change “Current Location” to South Africa and follow the “Public Participation” link) from 27 September 2013 until 5 November 2013.
- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the Draft EIAR for public comment by means of a letter, in English and Afrikaans, which was dated 19 September 2013 (see **Annexure B**).
- Authorities were also provided with copies of the report for review.
- ~~Two~~One comments ~~were~~was received on the Draft EIAR and ~~have~~has been responded to in a Comments and Response Report (see **Annexure B**).

Updating of the Draft EIAR to the Final EIAR

A limited number of changes were made to the Draft EIAR. Information that has been added are underlined, while information that is no longer applicable has been removed/ deleted. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

General changes to the Draft EIA Report to produce the Final report:

A number of minor changes were made to the Report which includes:

- The Draft EIA Report has been updated and is now called: “Proposed PV Facilities on Hoekplaas farm near Prieska, Northern Cape. Final EIA Report.



- Grammatical and typographic changes.
- Section 5.13 on potential dust impacts has been updated to include an additional mitigation measure:
 - During construction, 40% of the construction footprint shall remain vegetated and be brush cut to a height of 40-50 cm to ensure foliage are left on shrubs.
- Figures 3-9 was updated to include heritage sites requiring mitigation.
- Figure 3-11 was updated to include an additional proposed solar energy facility in the Copperton area.

Annexures have been updated as follows:

- Comments on the Draft EIA Report and proof of the PPP have been included in **Annexure B**.

Way forward

These Update Pages has been sent to all registered I&APs on the database. The Final EIAR has been made available to the public at the same venues as the Draft EIAR, as well as on Aurecon's website (www.aurecongroup.com - change "Current Location" to South Africa and follow the "Public Participation" link) from **22 November 2013** to **12 December 2013**.

The Final EIAR was submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration and review on 19 November 2013. The DEA will review the Final EIAR (together with the CRR) within 60 days and will then either:

- Accept the report;
- Notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review;
- Request amendments to the report; or
- Reject the report if it does not materially comply with regulations.

If the report is accepted, the DEA must within 45 days:

- Grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for; or
- Refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

Once DEA issues their decision on the proposed project, all registered I&APs on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the decision within 12 calendar days of the Environmental Authorisation having been issued. Should anyone (a member of public, registered I&AP or the Applicant) wish to appeal DEA's decision, a Notice of Intention to Appeal in terms of Chapter 7 of the EIA Regulations (Government Notice No. 543) in terms of NEMA must be lodged with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs within 20 calendar days of the decision being issued and the substantive Appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the Notice.

Aurecon would like to thank all those who have participated in this EIA process thus far.