

21 September 2018

Dear Stakeholder

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

### HYPERION SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

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#### NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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The development of four (4) separate photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facilities (SEFs) as well as associated infrastructure are being proposed on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Lyndoch 432 situated ~16km north of Kathu in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed solar energy facilities fall within the jurisdiction of the Gamagara Local Municipality and within the greater John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality. These facilities will be called:

- » Hyperion Solar Development 1
- » Hyperion Solar Development 2
- » Hyperion Solar Development 3
- » Hyperion Solar Development 4

Each of the four (4) SEFS will be constructed as separate stand-alone projects, with a separate project development company (or Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)) as the applicant for each project. The projects are detailed below:

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Contracted Capacity:</b>
Hyperion Solar Development 1 (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 1	75MW
Cyraguard (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 2	75MW
Nomispank (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 3	75MW
Nomispan (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 4	75MW

Infrastructure associated with each solar energy facility will include:

- » Arrays of PV panels (static and tracking PV system) with a contracted capacity of up to 75MW.
- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical.
- » On-site inverters to convert the power from a direct current to an alternating current.
- » An on-site substation to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- » A new 132kV overhead power line (OHPL) between the on-site substation and the existing Ferrum Substation<sup>1</sup>.
- » Battery storage mechanism with a storage capacity of up to 300MWh.
- » Water purification plant.
- » Site Offices and Maintenance Buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- » Batching plant.
- » Temporary laydown areas.
- » Internal access roads and fencing around the development area.

The applicant is also proposing the following:

- » Alternative 1 - Upgrade approximately 3,6km of the T26 gravel road between the project site and the N14; or
- » Alternative 2 - The construction of a new access road and the formalisation of an informal access road between the project site and the T25 gravel road, approximately 5km in length.

It is the developer's intention to bid each solar energy facility under the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated from each solar energy facility will be sold to Eskom and will feed into the national electricity grid. The development of the facilities will also assist with the achievement of the electricity goals as set out in the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP).

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Four (4) separate applications for Environmental Authorisation (EA) will be submitted for each of the proposed Hyperion Solar developments to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the Competent Authority (CA), in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the provisions of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, as amended on 07 April 2017, published in GNR 324 to GNR 327. The Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (NC DENC) is the Commenting Authority for these applications.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), responsible for undertaking the impact assessment processes (Scoping and EIA), in order to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the project for the area as identified, and recommend appropriate mitigation and management

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<sup>1</sup> The construction of the 132kV overhead power line will be assessed as part of a separate Basic Assessment process which will consider feasible alternatives for the power line route.

measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). As part of these environmental studies, Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public participation process.

The department and/or the organisation which you represent has been identified as a commenting authority for the proposed Hyperion Solar Developments. 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 EIA processes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards

Rozanne Els  
Savannah Environmental  
Email: [publicprocess@savannahsa.com](mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com)

25 October 2018

Dear Stakeholder

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND  
 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**HYPERION SOLAR DEVELOPMENTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE,  
 NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF SCOPING REPORTS FOR REVIEW**

The development of four (4) separate photovoltaic (PV) solar energy facilities (SEFs) as well as associated infrastructure are being proposed on the Remaining Extent of the Farm Lyndoch 432 situated ~16km north of Kathu in the Northern Cape Province. The proposed SEFs fall within the jurisdiction of the Gamagara Local Municipality and within the greater John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality. These facilities will be called:

- » Hyperion Solar Development 1;
- » Hyperion Solar Development 2;
- » Hyperion Solar Development 3; and
- » Hyperion Solar Development 4.

Each of the four (4) SEFs will be constructed as separate stand-alone projects, with a separate project development company (or Special Purpose Vehicle) as the applicant for each project. The projects are detailed below:

<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Contracted Capacity:</b>
Hyperion Solar Development 1 (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 1	75MW
Cyraguard (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 2	75MW
Nomispark (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 3	75MW
Nomispan (Pty) Ltd	Hyperion Solar Development 4	75MW

Infrastructure associated with each solar energy facility will include:

- » Arrays of PV panels (static and tracking PV system) with a contracted capacity of up to 75MW.
- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical.
- » On-site inverters to convert the power from a direct current to an alternating current.
- » An on-site substation to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- » A new 132kV overhead power line between the on-site substation and the existing Ferrum Substation<sup>1</sup>.
- » Battery storage mechanism with a storage capacity of up to 300MWh.
- » Water purification plant.
- » Site Offices and Maintenance Buildings, including workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- » Batching plant.
- » Temporary laydown areas.
- » Internal access roads and fencing around the development area.

For each facility, the applicant is also proposing an access road to the project site. Two alternatives will be assessed:

- » Alternative 1 - Upgrade approximately 3,6km of the T26 gravel road between the project site and the N14; or
- » Alternative 2 - The construction of a new access road and the formalisation of an informal access road between the project site and the T25 gravel road, approximately 5km in length.

It is the developer's intention to bid each SEF under the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated from each SEF will be sold to Eskom and will feed into the national electricity grid. The development of the facilities will also assist with the achievement of the electricity goals as set out in the current Integrated Resources Plan.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS**

Four (4) separate applications for Environmental Authorisation will be submitted for each of the proposed Hyperion Solar developments to the National Department of Environmental Affairs as the Competent Authority, in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) and the provisions of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, as amended on 07 April 2017, published in GNR 324 to GNR 327. The Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation is the Commenting Authority for these applications.

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<sup>1</sup> The construction of the 132kV overhead power line will be assessed as part of a separate Basic Assessment process which will consider feasible alternatives for the power line route.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner, responsible for undertaking the impact assessment processes (Scoping and EIA phases), in order to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the project for the area as identified and recommend appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme. As part of these environmental studies, Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public participation process.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF SCOPING REPORTS FOR REVIEW**

As a registered Interested and Affected Party (I&AP), you are hereby notified that the Scoping Reports are available for review and comment. The reports can be viewed at the Kathu Public Library (1 Hendrik van Eck Road, Kathu, Northern Cape Province) from **Friday, 26 October 2018** to **Monday, 26 November 2018**. The reports can also be downloaded from the following website: [www.savannahsa.com](http://www.savannahsa.com). A password to access the downloads page can be requested from the contact person below.

Please submit written comment on the Scoping Reports by **Monday, 26 November 2018** via fax, post or email to the contact person below. All comments received during this 30-day review period will be recorded and included in the Final Scoping Reports for submission to the National DEA in line with Regulation 44 of the 2014 NEMA EIA Regulations, as amended (GN R326). Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and / or clarification regarding the projects. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Kind regards



**Nicolene Venter**

**Public Participation and Social Consultant**

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