



Cape Environmental Assessment Practitioners (Pty) Ltd

Reg. No. 2008/004627/07

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2 November 2012
Ref: KGA167/19

Attention: Registered Interested & Affected Party

Via: e-mail, fax or post

RE: Availability of the FINAL SCOPING REPORT for the proposed Olien Solar (75MW) Facility Development, Prt 4 of Farm 300, Barkly West, Lime Acres, Northern Cape

Department of Environmental Affairs Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/371

Cape EAPrac have been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioners, by the Applicant, AE-AMD Renewable Energy (Pty) Ltd., to ensure compliance with the regulations contained in the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA No 107 of 1998, as amended and including the 2010 Environmental Regulations) for the proposed development of the Olien Solar Facility on Portion 4 of Farm 300, Barkly West near Lime Acres in the Northern Cape. The procedures of a Scoping & Environmental Impact Reporting (S&EIR) environmental process, in terms of the 2010 Regulations, are being followed for this application.

Outcome of the Draft Scoping Report commenting period:

The Draft Scoping Report was available for a 40-day review and commenting period. This office would like to thank all parties that have submitted their comments on this application, providing important information for the next phase of the EIA process. All comments received during the 40-day comment period on the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) have been included in the FSR. The comments received, highlighted the following issues of concern:

- Waste management with regards to defective panels / end of panel lifespan;
- The development site falls within the Griqualand West Centre of Endemism;
- Occurrence of Verraux eagle on the Ghaap Plateau;
- Cumulative ecological impact of the proposed development;
- Impact of cabling and lightning on migratory avifauna;
- Impact on ground dwelling species during the construction and decommissioning phases;
- Impact of the development on insect diversity;
- The microclimatic impacts of solar developments;
- More detailed assessment of the six pans identified on the site;
- The conservation importance and sensitivity of the Ghaap Plateau vegetation type;
- Protected tree, the Wild Olive, which occurs extensively and in high densities on the site;
- Presence of a number of vulnerable and near vulnerable bird species on the development site;
- The assessment of an alternative site is strongly advised;
- Biodiversity offsets will not be discussed before all alternative sites have been assessed and mitigations investigated; and

- EMP requirements including water pollution mitigation, health and safety of workers, social responsibility, fire risk and mitigation measures, waste disposal, and air pollution.

These issues have been highlighted in the Final Scoping Report, and preliminary responses have been provided. For some of the concerns raised, it will only be possible to address these concerns in full in the upcoming Environmental Impact Assessment phase of the EIA, as further specialist assessment and investigations will be undertaken during the next phase of the EAI.

Availability of the Final Scoping Report:

As a registered Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) or key stakeholder you are hereby notified that the Final Scoping Report (FSR) for the proposed Olien Solar Facility will be **available for review and comment for a 21-day commenting period**, between Monday, 5 November 2012 and Monday, 26 November 2012. The printed report will be available at:

- Lime Acres Public Library (Adam Street, Lime Acres)
- Kgatelopele Municipality (Dept. Technical Services, 222 Barker Street, Danielskuil),
- A digital copy of the complete report will also be available on website: www.cape-eaprac.co.za/active

Should you have any further comments on the Final Scoping Report, please ensure that your comment is submitted to this office on or before the stated closing date (26 November 2012).

<p>Cape EAPrac ATTN: Francini van Staden P.O. Box 2070, George, 6530 Tel: 044 874 0365; Fax: 044 874 0432 E-mail: francini@cape-eaprac.co.za</p>

The Final Scoping Report is submitted simultaneously to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (decision-making authority) for review. Should the DEA accept the FSR, the Environmental Impact Reporting (EIR) phase of the environmental process will commence. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be made available to all registered I&APs and Stakeholders for a 40-day review and comment period.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office directly.

Kind regards,



Francini van Staden
For Cape EAPrac

In the event that you or your organization have been wrongly identified as a stakeholder, or in the event that the responsibility of providing comment on this application lies with another party within your organization, either forward this notice to them or notify Cape EAPrac within one week of receiving this notice of the correct party that should be informed. Should you be aware of any relevant legislation that needs to be complied with, in addition to this process, please inform us of such as soon as possible.