

KOTULO TSATSI CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY 1 (CSP 1), CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY 2 (CSP 2), CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY 3 (CSP 3) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR KENHARDT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

PRE-APPLICATION MEETING WITH DEFF: NOTES FOR THE RECORD

Meeting Date: 29 September 2020

Time: 10:00

Venue: via Microsoft Teams (online virtual meeting)

Reference: 2020-09-0006

Attendees (Savannah Environmental attendance register attached):

NAME	ORGANISATION
Muhammad Essop	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
Hermann Alberts	Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF)
Karen Jodas	Savannah Environmental (SE)
Lisa Opperman	Savannah Environmental (SE)
Jo-Anne Thomas	Savannah Environmental (SE)
Attie Botha	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (KTE)
Philip Taylor	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (KTE)

The applicant seeks to make Application for Amendment to three Environmental Authorisations – Kotulo Tsatsi CSP1, CSP2 and CSP3 projects. The pre-application meeting provided an opportunity for the Applicant to explain the details of their planned technology change from the authorised CSP technology to PV technology.

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain confirmation from DEFF on the process to be followed for the amendment of the technology for each of the projects, and to determine how these changes can be accommodated through an amendment process. Therefore, clarity on the appropriate way forward was required from DEFF in order to give direction to the Applicant.

Notes:

Lisa Opperman (SE) opened the meeting, explained the purpose of the meeting, and provided information on the background of the projects and an introduction to the amendments proposed to be applied for (refer to **Appendix A**).

Attie Botha (KTE) provided the details of the proposed amendment to the meeting attendees. Attie explained that the proposal is to amend the technology of the three authorised 200MW CSP projects to change the technology from 200MW CSP to 200MW PV (photovoltaic) with storage, as the IRP no longer makes provision for the use of CSP as part of the energy mix of South Africa. All of the associated infrastructure would remain as authorised, and the proposal is for the technology change infrastructure to remain within the area authorised for the CSP tower and heliostat field. A map indicating the approximate position for the PV plus storage area was shared. It was confirmed that the technology change and the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for each facility would consider and avoid all environmental sensitivities as identified on site through the EIA process. The only infrastructure which would not be required would be the evaporation ponds associated with the CSP projects. Attie confirmed that the amendments would be undertaken within the authorised facility footprints and that no new areas, not previously assessed, would be considered or impacted by the amendments.

The following was stated and noted for the record:

- » Muhammad Essop (DEFF) enquired whether the projects are located within a Renewable Energy Development Zone (REDZ). Lisa Opperman (SE) advised that the projects fall outside of any REDZ areas.
- » Muhammad Essop (DEFF) explained that the Department views this technology change as a change in project scope. He advised that, while it may be possible to apply for this as a Part 2 Amendment, as the technology is changing from CSP to PV, the scope under which the CSP projects were assessed will change. Therefore, the DEFF will require full impact assessments from all specialists to fully consider the impact of the planned PV developments (i.e. the impacts for the development of the PV facilities will need to be re-assessed at the same level as would be required for an EIA phase report). Based on the above, DEFF advises that it would be preferable to rather undertake a new Scoping/EIA process and not an amendment process.
- » Muhammad Essop (DEFF) advised that the Department would need to re-issue the environmental authorisations for each project to change the technology to PV. As such, the DEFF favour new Application of Authorisations be submitted, rather than amendment applications.
- » Jo-Anne Thomas (SE) enquired whether it will be possible to be exempt from undertaking the Scoping phase as this has already been accepted through the previous processes. Muhammad Essop (DEFF) advised that this would not be possible and that the provisions in terms of Section 21 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, cannot be applied to these projects.
- » Karen Jodas (SE) stated that a key consideration is the prescribed timeframe of a full Scoping/EIA versus the prescribed timeframe of a Part 2 Amendment process, as there is a significant

difference. The Applicant is aiming to be ready for the Bid Window 5 timeline, which is expected to be issued Q4 of 2020. It was enquired whether the Applicant would be able to request a shortened timeframe from DEFF in terms of the timeframe prescribed for the decision-making on the applications by the Department. Muhammad Essop (DEFF) advised that they can expedite the decisions on the applications (i.e. shortened timeframe), but that this is not guaranteed at this stage.

- » Muhammad Essop (DEFF) advised that in terms of timeframe, should the new Scoping/EIA process commence now, the Scoping report could be accepted in 2020 and the EIA Report submitted for decision-making in February 2021.
- » Muhammad Essop (DEFF) enquired regarding the offset requirements included for the CSP projects and the amendment of these. He also advised that there needs to be an assessment of the offsets and a process for the offsets to be changed. DEFF also advised that it must be noted that the process for offsets have changed since the issuing of the environmental authorisations of the CSP projects. Karen Jodas (SE) advised that the offset as per the CSP EA was only relevant to one of the three projects (i.e. CSP3).
- » Karen Jodas (SE) enquired what the process would be for lapsing the existing environmental authorisations, should the applicant decide to undertake the new Scoping/EIA processes. Muhammad Essop (DEFF) advised that this process would need to be agreed upon but indicated that the new Scoping/EIA processes should commence first and that when the final EIA reports are submitted to the Department for decision-making, the Part 1 Amendment applications for the lapsing of the existing environmental authorisations needs to be submitted.
- » Muhammad Essop (DEFF) advised that as the scope of the projects have changed that the specialist assessments need to be undertaken within the new updated scope. Karen Jodas (SE) advised that the specialists will be contacted and that the fieldwork requirements and reporting requirements, in terms of any new guidelines, will be based on the opinions of the specialists.
- » Lisa Opperman (SE) enquired whether another pre-application meeting will be required to discuss the public participation plan for the projects. Muhammad Essop (DEFF) advised that another pre-application meeting will not be required and that the public participation plan just needs to be submitted for approval.
- » Muhammad Essop (DEFF) enquired on how the Department will be informed regarding the way forward for the projects and the preferred processes to be undertaken. Attie Botha (KTE) advised that email correspondence will be submitted to DEFF confirming the way forward.
- » Karen Jodas (SE) enquired whether specialist reports are required to form part of the Scoping Reports, as the environmental conditions of the sites are well known. Muhammad Essop (DEFF) confirmed that the Scoping reports do not require specialist inputs and that the Scoping Reports must just be in line with the requirements of Appendix 2 of the EIA Regulations, 2014. It was agreed that specialist inputs are not needed at the scoping phase, and that specialist reports would be included in the EIA reports.

- » Attie Botha (KTE) thanked Muhammad Essop (DEFF) for the positive and constructive contribution towards resolving the issues as raised.

No further comments or queries were raised by the attendees. The meeting was closed at 10:56 AM.

Prepared by:

Lisa Opperman

lisa.o@savannahsa.com

Post-meeting note: Following the pre-application meeting the applicant has advised on the preferred way forward for the projects. This has been set-out in **Appendix B** of this document.

Appendix List:

Appendix A: Sensitivity and Layout Map
























Appendix B: Post Meeting Note – Way Forward

**APPENDIX A:
SENSITIVITY AND LAYOUT MAP**







Kotulo Tsatsi Energy Solar Park

Layout Map

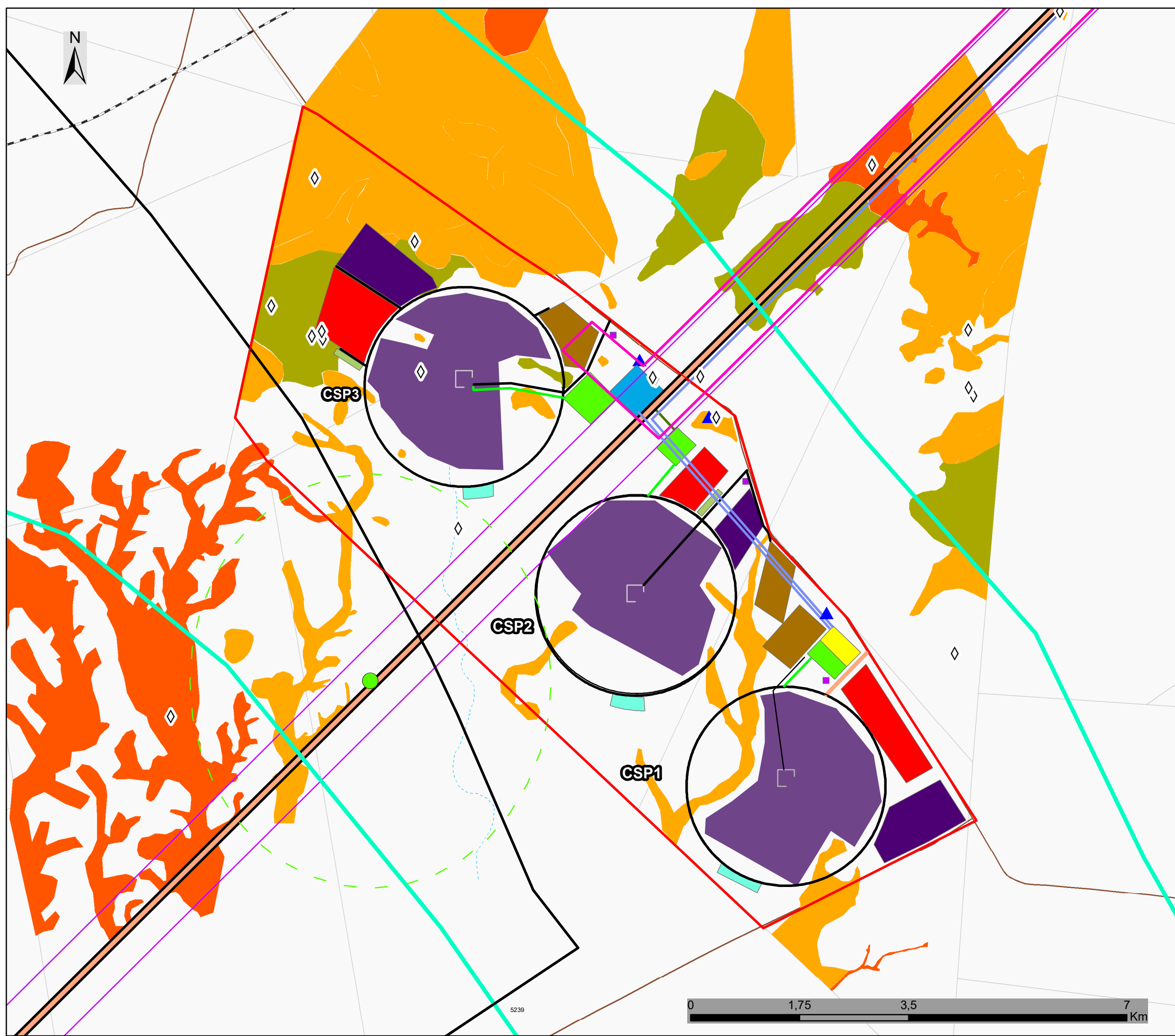
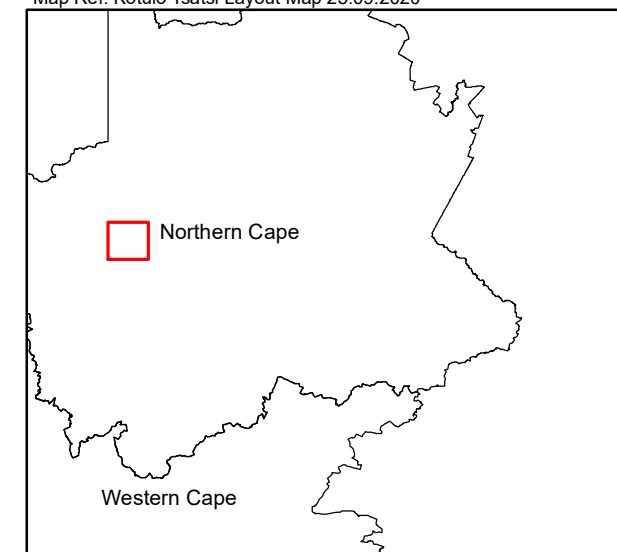
Ledgend

-  Main road
-  Railway
-  Farm portions
- Approved Infrastructure**
-  Raw Water Sources
-  Connection - Eskom Switching Station to Eskom Substation
-  Access Road
-  Connection - Power Block to Switching station
-  Internal Road
-  Power line corridor (1km width)
-  Development Footprint
-  Eskom Switching Station
-  Administration block
-  Assembly Plant
-  ESKOM Substation
-  Evaporation Ponds
-  Existing 400kV OHL Servitude/Setback line
-  Heliostat Field
-  Laydown Area
-  Man Camp
-  New 400kV OHL Corridor
-  Power Block & Project Substation
-  Project Switching Station
- Amendment to Infrastructure**
-  Proposed PV + Storage Area

Sensitivities

-  Heritage Points
-  Martial Eagle Nest
-  No-Go Area
-  High Sensitivity
-  Medium-High Sensitivity
-  Martial Eagle Buffer (3km)
-  ESA Modelled
-  ESA observed

Scale: 1: 60 000
 Projection: WGS_1984
 Map Ref: Kotulo Tsatsi Layout Map 25.09.2020



**APPENDIX B:
POST MEETING NOTE – WAY FORWARD**

KOTULO TSATSI CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY 1 (CSP 1), CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY 2 (CSP 2), CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER FACILITY 3 (CSP 3) AND ITS ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, NEAR KENHARDT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Post-meeting Note: Confirmation of the way forward

02 October 2020

Dear Mr. Essop and Mr. Alberts,

Following the undertaking of the Pre-Application meeting for the above-mentioned projects (reference: 2020-09-0006) on 29 September 2020, the applicant has confirmed the preferred processes to be followed in support of an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA).

In this regard, new applications for EA will be submitted to the Department for the authorisation of PV projects within the authorised CSP project development areas. The processes to be followed for each of the projects will be full Scoping/EIA processes and will include independent specialist studies as part of the EIA Phase.

Further to the above, and as telephonically discussed with Mr. Essop, the existing EAs for the CSP projects will be amended to exclude all infrastructure apart from the authorised linear components and associated infrastructure (including inter alia the grid connection infrastructure as well as the raw water supply). It is envisaged that this would be a Part 1 amendment process. As agreed at the pre-application consultation meeting, these amendment processes will commence at a later date, towards the end of the EIA Phase for the new applications for EA for the PV projects.

Kind regards
Lisa Opperman
(not signed, sent via email)

Lisa Opperman

From: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Friday, 16 October 2020 08:45
To: Lisa Opperman; Herman Alberts
Cc: Karen Jodas; Jo-Anne Thomas; Attie Botha; Philip Taylor
Subject: RE: 2020-09-0006: Kotulo Tsatsi Energy - Pre-Application Meeting Notes Submission and Way Forward

Dear Lisa.

The PP plan is approved.

Regards

Muhammad Essop

Assistant Director – Priority Infrastructure Projects
Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
0001
(012) 399 9406
MEssop@environment.gov.za

From: Lisa Opperman <lisa.o@savannahsa.com>
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2020 08:11
To: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>
Cc: Karen Jodas <karen@savannahsa.com>; Jo-Anne Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>; Attie Botha <attiebotha@kotulotsatsienergy.com>; Philip Taylor <philiptaylor@kotulotsatsienergy.com>
Subject: RE: 2020-09-0006: Kotulo Tsatsi Energy - Pre-Application Meeting Notes Submission and Way Forward

Dear Muhammad and Herman,

I trust you are doing well.

Please find attached for approval the Kotulo Tsatsi PV Public Participation Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries in this regard.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Lisa

From: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>
Sent: Tuesday, 06 October 2020 11:25
To: Lisa Opperman <lisa.o@savannahsa.com>; Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>; Attie Botha <attiebotha@kotulotsatsienergy.com>; Philip Taylor <philiptaylor@kotulotsatsienergy.com>

Cc: Karen Jodas <karen@savannahsa.com>; Jo-Anne Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>

Subject: RE: 2020-09-0006: Kotulo Tsatsi Energy - Pre-Application Meeting Notes Submission and Way Forward

Dear Lisa.

I have no objections to the meeting notes.

Regards

Muhammad Essop

Assistant Director – Priority Infrastructure Projects

Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Private Bag X447

Pretoria

0001

(012) 399 9406

MEssop@environment.gov.za

From: Lisa Opperman <lisa.o@savannahsa.com>

Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 16:34

To: Muhammad Essop <MEssop@environment.gov.za>; Herman Alberts <HALberts@environment.gov.za>; Attie Botha <attiebotha@kotulotsatsienergy.com>; Philip Taylor <philiptaylor@kotulotsatsienergy.com>

Cc: Karen Jodas <karen@savannahsa.com>; Jo-Anne Thomas <joanne@savannahsa.com>

Subject: 2020-09-0006: Kotulo Tsatsi Energy - Pre-Application Meeting Notes Submission and Way Forward

Dear All,

I trust you are well.

Please find herewith attached notes for the record of the pre-application meeting held on Tuesday 29 September for the Kotulo Tsatsi projects.

Kindly note that a post-meeting note on the way forward for the projects has been included as Appendix B of the attached document.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Kind regards

Lisa



Lisa Opperman
Environmental Consultant

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