

APPENDIX C6:
Comments Received

Interested and Affected Parties

KENHARDT LANDBOU VERENIGING

*Voorsitter
Michael van Niekerk*



*Posbus 69
Kenhardt
8900*

Cell : 073 1700 907

e-pos: sonderhuis@gmail.com

2020/11/19

*Me Nicolene Venter & Bestuur
Kotulo Tsatsi Sonkragontwikkeling*

nicolene@savannahsa.com

Geagte Me Venter & Bestuur

KENHARDT: INSTALLERING / OPRIGTING VAN SEKURITEITS KAMERAS

Die oprigting van die sonkragontwikkeling sal beslis heelwat werksgeleenthede skep, en sal 'n groot aanwinst vir ons omgewing wees. Dit kan egter ook 'n toename in misdaad in ons area te weeg bring.

Met verwysing na die sonkragontwikkeling te Kenhardt, rig ons hiermee 'n vriendelike versoek tot u maatskappy vir die installering/oprigting van sekureitskamas in ons area omdat ons bekommerd is oor die toename van die volgende:

- 1) Plaasaanvalle*
- 2) Werkers & hul gesinne wat nie meer op die plase wil woon a.g.v. plaasaanvalle*
- 3) Vergiftiging van honde – sodat kriminele vrylik kan beweeg*
- 4) Diefstal van sonkrag toerusting, (pompe, panele, krag drade, batterye, omsetters, ens.).*
- 5) Veediefstal*
- 6) Diefstal van voertuie*
- 7) Bewing van vreemdelinge in ons area*

Met die huidige voortslepende knellende droogte in ons gebied is dit egter onmoontlik vir ons boere om sodanige sekuriteitskamas op te rig.

Graag wil ons dus 'n vriendelike dog dringende versoek doen tot u goedgunstige oorweging om sodanige sekuriteitskamerastelsel in ons omgewing op te rig, wat terselfdertyd beslis ook u belegging van die sonkrag toerusting en personeel sal beskerm.

Beste wense vir voorspoed & sukses met hierdie groot sonkragontwikkeling in ons omgewing.

Ons verneem graag van u.

Namens al die bekommerde Boere in Kenhardt Distrik.

MICHAEL VAN NIEKERK

Cell : 073 1700 907

Savannah Public Process

From: Savannah Public Process
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:45 AM
To: 'du Toit,Japie'
Subject: RE: SolarReserve Kotulo Tsatsi CSP I&AP Response

Dear Japie,

Thank you for the information provided below.

Kind regards,



t: +27 (0)11 656 3237
f: +27 (0) 86 684 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

From: du Toit,Japie <Japie.duToit@lifehealthcare.co.za>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: RE: SolarReserve Kotulo Tsatsi CSP I&AP Response

Dear Nicolene

Thank you for your mail. I have agreement with Mr Botha on the revised document but we just need the quotes that was the basis of the current agreement. I am trying to source it from him and then we can sign the agreement accordingly.

Kind regards,

Japie

From: Savannah Public Process [<mailto:publicprocess@savannahsa.com>]
Sent: 09 Mar 2021 5:06 PM
To: du Toit,Japie <Japie.duToit@lifehealthcare.co.za>
Subject: RE: SolarReserve Kotulo Tsatsi CSP I&AP Response

Dear Japie,

With reference to your e-mail below, we have been informed by the Applicant, Mr Attie Botha, discussed the matter with you and that it has been resolved.

Please do not hesitate to submit any other comments / concerns regarding the application.

Kind regards,

From: du Toit, Japie <Japie.duToit@lifehealthcare.co.za>
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2021 4:07 PM
To: Savannah Public Process <publicprocess@savannahsa.com>
Subject: FW: SolarReserve Kotulo Tsatsi CSP I&AP Response
Importance: High

Dear Nicolene

As discussed telephonically, I was in discussion with the DEA and the developers during 2015 when the first application for the project took place. I subsequently reached a settlement with the developers reflected in a letter and offer they made to me dated 27 November 2015.

In terms of a confidentiality clause in the agreement, I cannot share it with third parties.

13. The parties further agree confidential and shall not save where such disclosur

In essence, the offer is based on the cost of putting certain measures in place to mitigate the risk to my property during construction of the project. I was comfortable with the offer at that stage (2015). My concern at this point is that the offer from the developers, does not make provision for inflation over time. If the project is now postponed beyond the initial period, the amount of the offer will not be adequate to fund the measures described in the offer, due to inflation over a period of more than 5 years.

I therefore request that the offer from the developers be adjusted for inflation from the time when the cost calculations were done to the point when the project starts. Alternatively, new quotations for the same measures agreed should be obtained at that point to adjust the relevant funding.

I am looking forward to a response from the developers.

Kind regards,

Japie

Japie du Toit
[Owner Klaasiobsvley farm](#)

From: Leanna Rautenbach [<mailto:Leanna.Rautenbach@solarreserve.com>]
Sent: 28 Aug 2015 4:20 PM
To: du Toit, Japie <Japie.duToit@lifehealthcare.co.za>
Cc: Rienie Burger (Contractor) <Rienie.Burger@solarreserve.com>

Subject: SolarReserve Kotulo Tsatsi CSP I&AP Response
Importance: High

Dear Dr Du Toit

I trust you are keeping well.
Our telephone conversation of this afternoon refers.

A letter of response was issued by SolarReserve Kotulo Tsatsi to you with respect to the meeting held on the 02nd of July 2015 and the letter you sent to Savannah in response to the EIA Report you reviewed.

Please find attached:

- Proof of the letter mailed to you (registered mail – tracking number); and
- an electronic copy of the letter for your perusal.

I would like to request written confirmation of receipt of this email to both us and Savannah Environmental.

We trust you will find this in order.

Best Regards,

Leanna Rautenbach
Director of Development: Africa Region
SOLARRESERVE SOUTH AFRICA

Web: www.solarreserve.com

Tel: +27 11 582 6880 Fax: +27 11 7847549 Cell: +27 79 503 1323 Fax2Email: 086 733 8849

Address:
Office 11C, 11th Floor, SinoSteel Plaza,
159 Rivonia Rd,
Sandton, Gauteng
South Africa,
2196

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Key Stakeholders

Savannah Environmental Pty (Ltd)
First Floor, Block 2
5 Woodlands Drive Office Park
Cnr Woodland Dr & Western Service Road
Woodmead
2191

Email: niclene@savannahsa.com

Date: 09 December 2020

To whom it may concern

RE: SARAO'S COMMENTS ON KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1 SCOPING REPORT, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE.

SARAO has completed the preliminary risk assessment with regard to the electromagnetic emissions of the for the above mentioned solar PV facilities and its possible impact on the SKA radio telescope.

The proposed project is located about 52km from the nearest SKA Infrastructure Territory and also located inside the Karoo Central Astronomy Advantage Areas 1. As a result, the project represents a **medium to high risk** of interference to the SKA radio telescope. This level of risk, will require that the developer of the facility to determine the anticipated level of radiated electromagnetic emissions in order for SARAO to undertake a compliance assessment.

In the case where the determined radiated emissions exceed the compliance limits and interferes with the SKA radio telescopes, the developer will be required to develop an EMC control plan and implement mitigation measures prior to construction, to ensure that the levels do not produce harmful interference to the SKA radio telescopes.

SARAO does not object to the development of Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1, however, commitment to determine radiated emissions, develop EMC control plan and implement mitigation measures must be included in the EMPr.

www.ska.ac.za

The South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO) is a National Facility managed by the National Research Foundation and incorporates all national radio astronomy telescopes and programmes. SARAO is responsible for implementing the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) in South Africa.

We apologise for late submission and our office remains open to discuss any matter relating to the above.

Regards,



Mr Selaelo Matlhane
Spectrum & Telecommunication Manager
South African Radio Astronomy Observatory (SARAO)
Tel: 011 442 2434
Email: smatlhane@ska.ac.za

Organs of State



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia· PRETORIA

DEFF Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2027

Enquiries: Mr Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 E-mail: HAlberts@henvironment.gov.za

Ms Karen Jodas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2157

Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: karen@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Jodas

ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1 FACILITY IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The final Scoping Report (SR) and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated November 2020 and received by the Department on 01 December 2020, refer.

The Department has evaluated the submitted final SR and the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment dated November 2020 and is satisfied that the documents comply with the minimum requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014, as amended. The final SR is hereby accepted by the Department in terms of Regulation 22(1)(a) of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

You may proceed with the environmental impact assessment process in accordance with the tasks contemplated in the Plan of Study for Environmental Impact Assessment as required in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

In addition, the following amendments and additional information are required for the EIAr:

(a) Listed Activities

- (i) Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- (ii) If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.
- (iii) Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.
- (iv) The EIAr must provide an assessment of the impacts and mitigation measures for each of the listed activities applied for.

(b) Public Participation

- (i) Please ensure that comments from all relevant stakeholders are submitted to the Department with the EIAr. This includes but is not limited to the Northern Cape Department of Environment & Nature

Conservation (DENC), the provincial Department of Agriculture, the Provincial Department of Transport, the Hantam Local Municipality, the Namakwa District Municipality, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR), and the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Directorate Biodiversity.

- (ii) Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR and draft EIAR from registered I&APs and organs of state which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final EIAR.
- (iii) Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final EIAR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- (iv) A Comments and Response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final EIAR. The C&R report must incorporate all comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Appendix 1 of this letter. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&APs' comments.
- (v) Comments from I&APs must not be split and arranged into categories. Comments from each submission must be responded to individually.
- (vi) The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40, 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations, 2014, as amended.

(c) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- (i) The EIAR must provide coordinate points for the proposed development site (note that if the site has numerous bend points, at each bend point coordinates must be provided) as well as the start, middle and end point of all linear activities.
- (ii) A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final EIAR and all available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map.
- (iii) Existing infrastructure must be used as far as possible and the layout map must indicate the following:
 - All supporting onsite infrastructure;
 - The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - Buffer areas; and
 - All "no-go" areas.
- (iv) The final EIAR must include an environmental sensitivity map indicating environmental sensitive areas, buffer areas and features identified during the assessment process.
- (v) A map combining the final layout map superimposed (overlain) on the environmental sensitivity map.

(d) Specialist assessments

- (i) The EAP must ensure that the terms of reference for all the identified specialist studies must include the following:
 - A detailed description of the study's methodology; indication of the locations and descriptions of the development footprint, and all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for authorisations.
 - Provide a detailed description of all limitations to the studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation will not be allowed.
 - Please note that the Department considers a 'no-go' area, as an area where no development of any infrastructure is allowed; therefore, no development of associated infrastructure including access roads is allowed in the 'no-go' areas.
 - Should the specialist definition of 'no-go' area differ from the Departments definition; this must be clearly indicated. The specialist must also indicate the 'no-go' area's buffer if applicable.



- All specialist studies must be final, and provide detailed/practical mitigation measures for the preferred alternative and recommendations, and must not recommend further studies to be completed post EA.
- (ii) Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.

(e) General

- (i) Should a Water Use License be required, proof of application for a license needs to be submitted.

The applicant is hereby reminded to comply with the requirements of Regulation 45 of GN R982 of 04 December 2014, as amended, with regard to the time period allowed for complying with the requirements of the Regulations.

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended, that no activity may commence prior to an environmental authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations

Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Signed by: Mr Coenrad Agenbach

Designation: Deputy Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects

Date: 06/01/2021

cc:	Adriaan Botha	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd	Email: AttieBotha@KotuloTsatsiEnergy.com
	Bryan Fisher	NC DENC	Email: Bfisher@ncpp.gov.za
	Jl Swartz	Hantam Local Municipality	Email: Jiswartz@hantam.gov.za

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment, name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Doe)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted)The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format, see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form

SCOPING PHASE

DEFF



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447· PRETORIA 0001· Environment House 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia,· PRETORIA

DEA Reference: 14/12/16/3/3/2/2027

Enquiries: Mr Herman Alberts

Telephone: (012) 399 9371 E-mail: HAlberts@environment.gov.za

Ms Karen Jodas
Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
PO Box 148
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Telephone Number: (011) 656 3237
Email Address: karen@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL / MAIL

Dear Ms Jodas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY PV1 FACILITY IN THE NAMAKWA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The draft Scoping Report (SR) dated October 2020 and received by this Department on 26 October 2020 refer.

This letter serves to inform you that the following information must be included in the final SR:

(a) Listed Activities

- i. Please ensure that all relevant listed activities are applied for, are specific and that it can be linked to the development activity or infrastructure as described in the project description.
- ii. If the activities applied for in the application form differ from those mentioned in the final SR, an amended application form must be submitted.
- iii. Please note that the Department's application form template has been amended and can be downloaded from the following link <https://www.environment.gov.za/documents/forms>.

(b) Alternatives

- i. Please provide a description of any identified alternatives for the proposed activity that are feasible and reasonable, including the advantages and disadvantages that the proposed activity or alternatives will have on the environment and on the community that may be affected by the activity as per Appendix 2 of GN R.982 of 2014 (as amended).
- ii. Alternatively, you should submit written proof of an investigation and motivation if no reasonable or feasible alternatives exist in terms of Appendix 2.

(c) Public Participation Process

- i. Please ensure that all issues raised and comments received during the circulation of the draft SR from registered I&APs and organs of state (including this Department's Biodiversity Section), which have jurisdiction in respect of the proposed activity are adequately addressed in the final SR.

- ii. Proof of correspondence with the various stakeholders must be included in the final SR. Should you be unable to obtain comments, proof should be submitted to the Department of the attempts that were made to obtain comments.
- iii. The Public Participation Process must be conducted in terms of Regulation 39, 40 41, 42, 43 & 44 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.
- iv. A comments and response trail report (C&R) must be submitted with the final SR. The C&R report must incorporate all historical comments for this development. The C&R report must be a separate document from the main report and the format must be in the table format as indicated in Annexure 1 of this comments letter.
- v. Please refrain from summarising comments made by I&APs. All comments from I&APs must be copied verbatim and responded to clearly. Please note that a response such as "Noted" is not regarded as an adequate response to I&AP's comments.
- vi. The final SR must provide evidence that all identified and relevant competent authorities have been given an opportunity to comment on the proposed development particularly the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation, and the District and Local Municipalities.

(d) Layout & Sensitivity Maps

- i. A copy of the final layout map must be submitted with the final report and all available biodiversity information must be used in the finalisation of the layout map.
- ii. The layout map must indicate the following:
 - a) Position of all infrastructure e.g. panels, BESS, substations, grid connection etc.;
 - b) Permanent laydown area footprint;
 - c) All supporting onsite infrastructure e.g. roads (existing and proposed);
 - d) Substation(s) and/or transformer(s) sites including their entire footprint;
 - e) Connection routes (including pylon positions) to the distribution/transmission network; and
 - f) All existing infrastructure on the site.
- iii. Please provide an environmental sensitivity map which indicates the following:
 - a) The location of sensitive environmental features on site e.g. CBAs, heritage sites, wetlands, drainage lines etc. that will be affected;
 - b) Buffer areas; and,
 - c) All "no-go" areas.
- iv. The above layout map must be overlain with the sensitivity map and a cumulative map which shows neighbouring energy developments and existing grid infrastructure.

(e) Specialist Assessments

- i. The SR makes mention that the proposed development falls with CBA areas. As such, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the CBA areas must be addressed in the final SR.
- ii. If the proposed development has an impact on the CBA's, this Department requires that a biodiversity offset plan detailing all necessary information which will include inter alia the total loss of biodiversity versus the net gain, where the loss will occur and where it will be replaced, be provided in order to be able to make an informed decision on the application.
- iii. Furthermore, this Department requires that legal agreements between the applicant and the management authority that will manage the offset area be signed before a decision can be made on the application.
- iv. This Department will be guided by colleagues from this Department's Protected Area Management and Biodiversity & Conservation units, as well as the DENC on the offset process. As such, the EAP must ensure that all documents related to this project are also submitted to these commenting authorities.
- v. Specialist studies to be conducted must provide a detailed description of their methodology, as well as all other associated infrastructures that they have assessed and are recommending for the authorisation.

- vi. The specialist studies must also provide a detailed description of all limitations to their studies. All specialist studies must be conducted in the right season and providing that as a limitation, will not be accepted.
- vii. Should the appointed specialists specify contradicting recommendations, the EAP must clearly indicate the most reasonable recommendation and substantiate this with defensible reasons; and where necessary, include further expertise advice.
- viii. Specialist Declaration of Interest forms must be attached to the final SR. The forms are available on Department's website (please use the Department's template).
- ix. The EAP must ensure that all applicable guidelines are taken into consideration in the preparation of the final SR.
- x. The final SR must include specialist input, as well as a risk assessment for the battery energy storage system.

(f) Cumulative Assessment

- i. If there are other similar facilities proposed within a 30km radius of the proposed development site, a cumulative impact assessment must be conducted for all identified and assessed impacts which must be refined to indicate the following:
 - a) Identified cumulative impacts must be clearly defined, and where possible the size of the identified impact must be quantified and indicated, i.e. hectares of cumulatively transformed land.
 - b) Detailed process flow and proof must be provided, to indicate how the specialist's recommendations, mitigation measures and conclusions from the various similar developments in the area were taken into consideration in the assessment of cumulative impacts and when the conclusion and mitigation measures were drafted for this project.
 - c) The cumulative impacts significance rating must also inform the need and desirability of the proposed development.
 - d) A cumulative impact environmental statement on whether the proposed development must proceed.

You are further reminded to comply with Regulation 21(1) of the NEMA EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, which states that:

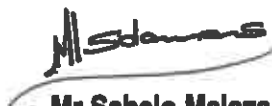
"If S&EIR must be applied to an application, the applicant must, within 44 days of receipt of the application by the competent authority, submit to the competent authority a scoping report which has been subjected to a public participation process of at least 30 days and which reflects the incorporation of comments received, including any comments of the competent authority"

You are further reminded that the final SR to be submitted to this Department must comply with all the requirements in terms of the scope of assessment and content of Scoping Reports in accordance with Appendix 2 and Regulation 21(1) of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended.

Further note that in terms of Regulation 45 of the EIA Regulations 2014, as amended, this application will lapse if the applicant fails to meet any of the timeframes prescribed in terms of these Regulations, unless an extension has been granted in terms of Regulation 3(7).

You are hereby reminded of Section 24F of the National Environmental Management Act, Act No. 107 of 1998, as amended; that no activity may commence prior to an Environmental Authorisation being granted by the Department.

Yours faithfully



Mr Sabelo Malaza
Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
Letter signed by: Ms Millicent Solomons
Designation: Director: Priority Infrastructure Projects
Date: 11/11/2020

cc:	Adriaan Botha	Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd	Email: AttieBotha@KotuloTsatsiEnergy.com
	Bryan Fisher	NC DENC	Email: Bfisher@ncpg.gov.za
	Jl Swartz	Hantam Local Municipality	Email: Jiswartz@hantam.gov.za

Annexure 1

Format for Comments and Response Trail Report:

Date of comment, format of comment name of organisation/I&AP	Comment	Response from EAP/Applicant/Specialist
27/01/2016 Email Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries: Priority Infrastructure Projects (John Soap)	Please record C&R trail report in this format Please update the contact details of the provincial environmental authority	EAP: (Noted)The C&R trail report has been updated into the desired format; see Appendix K EAP: Details of provincial authority have been updated, see page 16 of the Application form



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X 447 · PRETORIA · 0001 · Environment House · 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, · PRETORIA
Tel (+ 27 12) 399 9372

Reference: Kotulo PV 1

Enquiries: Ms Portia Makitla

Telephone: 012 399 9411 **E-mail:** pmakitla@environment.gov.za

Ms Jo-Anne Thomas
Savannah Environmental
PO Box 148
SUNNINGHILL
2147

Telephone Number: +27 (11) 656 3237

Email Address: publicprocess@savannahsa.com

PER E-MAIL

Dear Ms Thomas

COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR KOTULO TSATSI PV 1, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

The Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation has reviewed and evaluated the aforementioned report.

Based on the information provided the majority of the development area of Kotulo Tsatsi PV1 is located within Other Natural Areas (ONA) with the southern portion of the development area, demarcated as Critical Biodiversity Area 1 (CBA1) and Critical Biodiversity Area 2 (CBA2).

In overall there are no potential impacts associated with the proposed development that are of high sensitive and which cannot be mitigated to the acceptable level. Therefore, the Directorate Biodiversity & Conservation is of the opinion that the information provided is adequate to proceed with the next stage of the EIA. However, the cumulative impacts is of concern considering the number of renewable energy development proposed in the surrounding area.

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

Yours faithfully

Mr Seoka Lekota
Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation
Department of Environmental affairs
Date: 23/11/2020

ESKOM

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Eskom requirements for work in or near Eskom servitudes.

1. Eskom's rights and services must be acknowledged and respected at all times.
2. Eskom shall at all times retain unobstructed access to and egress from its servitudes.
3. Eskom's consent does not relieve the developer from obtaining the necessary statutory, land owner or municipal approvals.
4. Any cost incurred by Eskom as a result of non-compliance to any relevant environmental legislation will be charged to the developer.
5. If Eskom has to incur any expenditure in order to comply with statutory clearances or other regulations as a result of the developer's activities or because of the presence of his equipment or installation within the servitude restriction area, the developer shall pay such costs to Eskom on demand.
6. The use of explosives of any type within 500 metres of Eskom's services shall only occur with Eskom's previous written permission. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least fourteen working days prior notice of the commencement of blasting. This allows time for arrangements to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued in terms of the blasting process. It is advisable to make application separately in this regard.
7. Changes in ground level may not infringe statutory ground to conductor clearances or statutory visibility clearances. After any changes in ground level, the surface shall be rehabilitated and stabilised so as to prevent erosion. The measures taken shall be to Eskom's satisfaction.
8. Eskom shall not be liable for the death of or injury to any person or for the loss of or damage to any property whether as a result of the encroachment or of the use of the servitude area by the developer, his/her agent, contractors, employees, successors in title, and assignees. The developer indemnifies Eskom against loss, claims or damages including claims pertaining to consequential damages by third parties and whether as a result of damage to or interruption of or interference with Eskom's services or apparatus or otherwise. Eskom will not be held responsible for damage to the developer's equipment.
9. No mechanical equipment, including mechanical excavators or high lifting machinery, shall be used in the vicinity of Eskom's apparatus and/or services, without prior written permission having been granted by Eskom. If such permission is granted the developer must give at least seven working days' notice prior to the commencement of work. This allows time for arrangements

to be made for supervision and/or precautionary instructions to be issued by the relevant Eskom Manager

Note: Where and electrical outage is required, at least fourteen work days are required to arrange it.

10. Eskom's rights and duties in the servitude shall be accepted as having prior right at all times and shall not be obstructed or interfered with.
11. Under no circumstances shall rubble, earth or other material be dumped within the servitude restriction area. The developer shall maintain the area concerned to Eskom's satisfaction. The developer shall be liable to Eskom for the cost of any remedial action which has to be carried out by Eskom.
12. The clearances between Eskom's live electrical equipment and the proposed construction work shall be observed as stipulated by *Regulation 15* of the *Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993)*.
13. Equipment shall be regarded electrically live and therefore dangerous at all times.
14. In spite of the restrictions stipulated by Regulation 15 of the Electrical Machinery Regulations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), as an additional safety precaution, Eskom will not approve the erection of houses, or structures occupied or frequented by human beings, under the power lines or within the servitude restriction area.
15. Eskom may stipulate any additional requirements to highlight any possible exposure to Customers or Public to coming into contact or be exposed to any dangers of Eskom plant.
16. It is required of the developer to familiarise himself with all safety hazards related to Electrical plant.
17. Any third party servitudes encroaching on Eskom servitudes shall be registered against Eskom's title deed at the developer's own cost. If such a servitude is brought into being, its existence should be endorsed on the Eskom servitude deed concerned, while the third party's servitude deed must also include the rights of the affected Eskom servitude.

John Geeringh (Pr Sci Nat)(EAPASA)
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	SCOT	Technology
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Title: Renewable Energy Generation Plant Setbacks to Eskom Infrastructure
Unique Identifier: 240-65559775
Alternative Reference Number: N/A
Area of Applicability: Power Line Engineering
Documentation Type: Guideline
Revision: 1
Total Pages: 9
Next Review Date: N/A
Disclosure Classification: CONTROLLED DISCLOSURE

Compiled by



J W Chetty
Mechanical Engineer

Date: 23/11/2018

Approved by



B Ntshuntsha
Chief Engineer (Lines)

Date: 24/11/2018

Authorised by



R A Vajeth
Snr Manager (Lines) and SCOT/SCI Chairperson

Date: 16/11/2018

PCM Reference: 240-65132732 **LINE ENGINEERING SERVICES**
 SCOT Study Committee Number/Name : **OVERHEAD LINES**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recent decades, the use of wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants have been on the increase as it serves as an abundant source of energy. This document specifies setbacks for wind turbines and the reasons for these setbacks from infrastructure as well as setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants. Setbacks for wind turbines employed in other countries were compared and a general setback to be used by Eskom was suggested for use with wind turbines and other renewable energy generation plants.

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1. INTRODUCTION

During the last few decades, a large amount of wind turbines have been installed in wind farms to accommodate for the large demand of energy and depleting fossil fuels. Wind is one of the most abundant sources of renewable energy. Wind turbines harness the energy of this renewable resource for integration in electricity networks. The extraction of wind energy is its primary function and thus the aerodynamics of the wind turbine is important. There are many different types of wind turbines which will all exhibit different wind flow characteristics. The most common wind turbine used commercially is the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine. Wind flow characteristics of this turbine are important to analyse as it may have an effect on surrounding infrastructure.

Wind turbines also cause large turbulence downwind that may affect existing infrastructure. Debris or parts of the turbine blade, in the case of a failure, may be tossed behind the turbine and may lead to damage of infrastructure in the wake path.

This document outlines the minimum distances that need to be introduced between a wind turbine and Eskom infrastructure to ensure that debris and / or turbulence would not negatively impact on the infrastructure.

Safety distances of wind turbines from other structures as implemented by other countries were also considered and the reasons for their selection were noted.

Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setbacks away from substations were also to be considered to prevent restricting possible power line access routes to the substation.

2. SUPPORTING CLAUSES

2.1 SCOPE

This document provides guidance on the safe distance that a wind turbine should be located from any Eskom power line or substation. The document specifies setback distances for transmission lines (220 kV to 765 kV), distribution lines (6.6 kV to 132 kV) and all Eskom substations. Setbacks for concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants are also specified away from substations.

2.1.1 Purpose

Setbacks for wind turbines and power lines / substations are required for various reasons. These include possible catastrophic failure of the turbine blade that may release fragments and which may be thrown onto nearby power lines that may result in damage with associated unplanned outages. Turbulence behind the turbine may affect helicopter flight during routine Eskom live line maintenance and

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inspections that may lead to safety risk of the aircraft / personnel. Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants setback away from substations were required to prevent substations from being boxed in by these renewable generation plants limiting line route access to the substations.

2.1.2 Applicability

This document is applicable to the siting of all new and existing wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines and substations.

2.2 NORMATIVE/INFORMATIVE REFERENCES

2.2.1 Normative

1. <http://www.envir.ee/orb.aw/class=file/action=preview/id=1170403/Hiiumaa+turbulence+impact+EMD.pdf>.
2. <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-500-2005-184/CEC-500-2005-184.PDF>
3. <http://www.adamscountywind.com/Revised%20Site/Windmills/Adams%20County%20Ordinance/Adams%20County%20Wind%20Ord.htm>
4. http://www.dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=PA11R&RE=1&EE=1
5. <http://www.wind-watch.org/documents/european-setbacks-minimum-distance-between-wind-turbines-and-habitations/>
6. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/017/11017.1-i.html>
7. http://www.caw.ca/assets/pdf/Turbine_Safety_Report.pdf
8. Rogers J, Slegers N, Costello M. (2011) A method for defining wind turbine setback standards. Wind energy 10.1002/we.468

2.2.2 Informative

None

2.3 DEFINITIONS

Definition	Description
Setback	The minimum distance between a wind turbine and boundary line/dwelling/road/infrastructure/servitude etc.
Flicker	Effect caused when rotating wind turbine blades periodically cast shadows
Tip Height	The total height of the wind turbine ie. Hub height plus half rotor diameter (see Figure1)

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2.3.1 Disclosure Classification

Controlled disclosure: controlled disclosure to external parties (either enforced by law, or discretionary).

2.4 ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Description
None	

2.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All personnel involved in the positioning wind turbines, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants near power lines/substations must follow the setbacks outlined in this guideline.

2.6 PROCESS FOR MONITORING

Approval by Eskom in writing.

2.7 RELATED/SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

3. DOCUMENT CONTENT

3.1 INTERNATIONAL SETBACK COMPARISON

Wind Turbine setbacks employed by various countries were considered. It was found that setbacks were determined for various reasons that include noise, flicker, turbine blade failure and wind effects. The distances (setbacks) varied based on these factors and were influenced by the type of infrastructure

Wind turbine setbacks varied for roads, power lines, dwellings, buildings and property and it was noted that the largest setbacks were employed for reasons of noise and flicker related issues [1-7]. Very few countries specified setbacks for power lines.

The literature survey [1-7], yielded information about studies and experiments were conducted to determine the distance that a broken fragment from a wind turbine might be thrown. Even though of low probability of hitting a power line [5.0×10^{-5} ^[8]], the distances recorded were significant [750m ^[8]]

Setbacks were thus introduced to prevent any damage to Eskom infrastructure.

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Wind turbines may also cause changes in wind patterns with turbulent effects behind the hub. These factors dictate the wind turbine setbacks specified in this document.

Concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic plants also can limit access into the substation for power lines of all voltages. A setback distance must therefore be employed to prevent the substation from being boxed in by these generation plants. These setback distances are specified in this document.

3.2 ESKOM REQUIRED SETBACKS

A formal application must be sent to and accepted by Eskom if any of the below mentioned setback distances are infringed upon:

- Eskom requires a setback distance of 3 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for transmission lines (220kV to 765kV) and Substations.
- Eskom requires a setback distance of 1 times the tip height of the wind turbine from the edge of the closest Eskom servitude (including vacant servitudes) for distribution lines (66 kV to 132 kV) and Substations.
- An application must be sent to Eskom regarding any proposed wind turbine, concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic activity within a 5 km radius of a substation for Eskom to comment on the application.
- Where concentrated solar plants and photovoltaic structures fall within a 2 km radius of the closest point of a transmission or distribution substation (66kV to 765kV), Eskom should be applied to for approval in writing during the planning phase of such plant or structures.
- Applicants must not position any wind turbine in the line of site between and two Eskom Radio Telecommunication masts. It must be proven that Eskom radio telecommunication systems (mainly microwave systems) will not be affected in any way by wind turbines.
- If the position or size of any turbine changes and subsequently infringes on any of the above stated setbacks, an application must be sent through to Eskom as per the point mentioned above.

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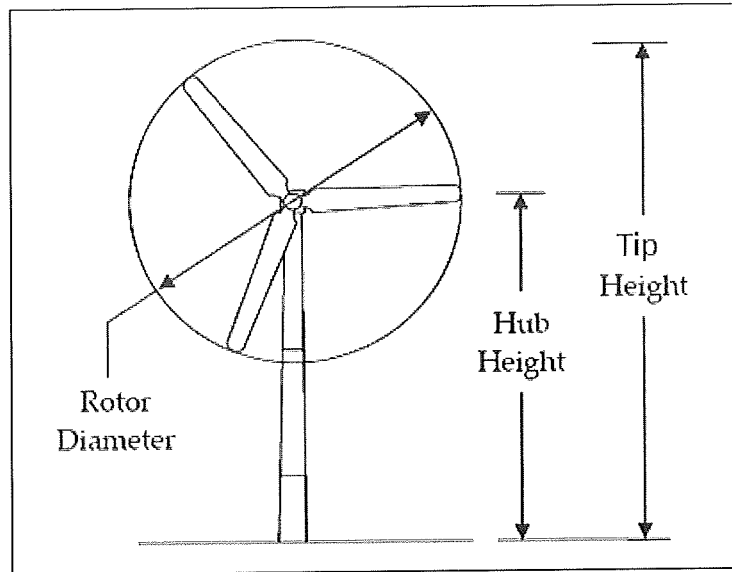


Figure 1: Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine ^[2]

4. AUTHORISATION

This document has been seen and accepted by:

Name & Surname	Designation
V Naidoo	Chief Engineer
Dr P H Pretorius	Electrical Specialist
J Geeringh	Snr Consultant Environ Mngt
B Haridass	Snr Consultant Engineer
R A Vajeth	Acting Snr Manager (Lines)

5. REVISIONS

Date	Rev.	Compiler	Remarks
November 2013	0	J W Chetty	First Publication - No renewable energy generation plant setback specification in existence
October 2018	1	JW Chetty	Modification to sub-section 3.2 to provide more clarity for application procedure

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6. DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The following people were involved in the development of this document:

Jonathan W Chetty (Mechanical Engineer)

Vivendhra Naidoo (Chief Engineer)

Dr Pieter H Pretorius (Electrical Specialist)

John Geeringh (Snr Consultant Environ Mngt)

Bharat Haridass (Snr Consultant Engineer)

Riaz A Vajeth (Acting Snr Manager (Lines))

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PHS CONSULTING



2020-11-19

REF: KOTULO TSATSI ENERGY: PV 1, PV 3 & PV4

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd
Po Box 148
Sunninghill
Gauteng
2157

Attention: Nicolene Venter per e-mail: publicprocess@savannahsa.com and nicolene@savannahsa.com

COMMENT: DRAFT SCOPING REPORT KOTULO TSATSI SOLAR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; PV 1; PV 3 & PV 4: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

PHS Consulting act on behalf of **Mr Basson of Leopont 340 Properties Proprietary Limited t/a Dagab Boerdery** (called Leopont for the purpose of this objection).

Leopont has the following objections regarding the proposed development, construction and operation of the PV1, PV3 & PV 4 electricity generating facility.

OBJECTIONS

- 1) Unclear approval status of previous applications on the same properties.
- 2) Development of this nature should take place on a less sensitive site, within a low sensitivity index area, not inside an ecological corridor and not outside the REDZ zone.
- 3) Safety and security of farm communities.
- 4) Adequacy of service infrastructure, especially water and access.
- 5) Process issues.
- 6) Shortcomings in Terms of Reference for Specialist.

DETAIL REGARDING OBJECTION

- 1) **Unclear approval status of previous applications on the same properties**

The Scoping Report needs to include a dedicated section on how the previous approvals fit in with the new applications. As per the information received during the interest group meeting it was explained that some components of the previous Environmental Authorisations (EA's) will remain and that others will fall away. We also need to understand the validity term of the current EA's and at what stage will amendment applications take place to remove certain infrastructure. Currently there is a clash of approved CSP development components with the proposed PV. We are of the opinion that the amendments of previous EA's need to take place simultaneously to the PV1, PV2 and PV3 applications in order for I&AP's to understand the full extent of the proposed Solar Park.

Please include as part of this section a combine illustrative plan of how the larger Solar Park will look like in future in order to understand the full extent of the proposal.

The approval status of the Eskom corridor that was previously subjected to an EIA process needs to be clarified and if it will impact on this proposal in detail.

2) Development of this nature should take place on a less sensitive site outside of the identified constraints. It needs to be in a low sensitivity index area which will be more sustainable. It is a virgin site, in the SKA zone, inside an ecological corridor and outside the REDZ zone.

Please clarify if the required land-use rights for the Solar Park were obtained?

Components of the project was approved in the past, as such the Scoping Report makes the following statement "As a result of the affected property being previously authorised for a development of a similar nature, the suitability of the land for the development of solar PV facilities has, therefore, been confirmed."

We are of the opinion that the project was authorised in the past as part of the South African Governments "solar rush" drive to develop renewable energy projects at all costs even if the location is in a sensitive area opposed to locating intrusive large scale development in less sensitive areas as per the Namakwa District Municipal Environmental Management Framework (NEMF).

There is a lack in the scope where less sensitive alternative sites are addressed. Site selection is the most important aspect when considering long term large scale developments. Within the vast landscape of the Northern Cape certain areas should be regarded as no-go areas for solar farm developments. Various criteria should be used to eliminate areas and this approach should form part of the assessment to determine possible sites.

We need a clear section in this EIA that addresses the objectives of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wind and Solar Photovoltaic Energy in South Africa (CSIR, 2015). The SEA has identified Priority Areas for wind and solar PV energy development. This SEA process was initiated by the Department of Environmental Affairs. A product of the SEA was the identification of Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ) for PV and Wind Energy development.

Therefore site selection should have taken place in line with the SEA. The SEA process considered both negative and positive mapping to identify RE development areas. This site is outside of the proposed areas.

Positive key factors including transmission loss, local municipalities with high social need and high potential for development, priority areas for renewable energy manufacturing and import activities, and existing transmission infrastructure were considered.

We could not find a reference to transmission loss in the scoping report. How do the sites for PV1, PV3 and PV4 relate to this aspect?

Negative mapping entail environmental and technical constraints to eliminate areas with highly sensitive features consisting of environmental features (e.g. protected areas and areas of known bird and bat sensitivity), existing and future planned land uses (e.g. agriculture), existing infrastructure (e.g. electricity grid), existing national plans (e.g. Square Kilometre Array electromagnetic telescope project).

The idea was to identify large clusters of land with the lowest environmental sensitivity, overlaid with the highest development potential areas per province. The priority development areas were then identified. Specialist scoping level pre-assessments were then undertaken in the REDZ for agriculture, landscape, heritage, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, birds, bats, and socio-economic sensitivities.

Below is a map extracted from the CSRI & DEA SEA, the red star is the approximate location of the proposed PV1, PV2 & PV3. It is clearly outside of high development potential areas and within an exclusion area. The grey exclusions in this case relate to SKA reserve area, sensitive wetland drainage patterns and ecological corridors.

High Development Potential with Exclusion Mask

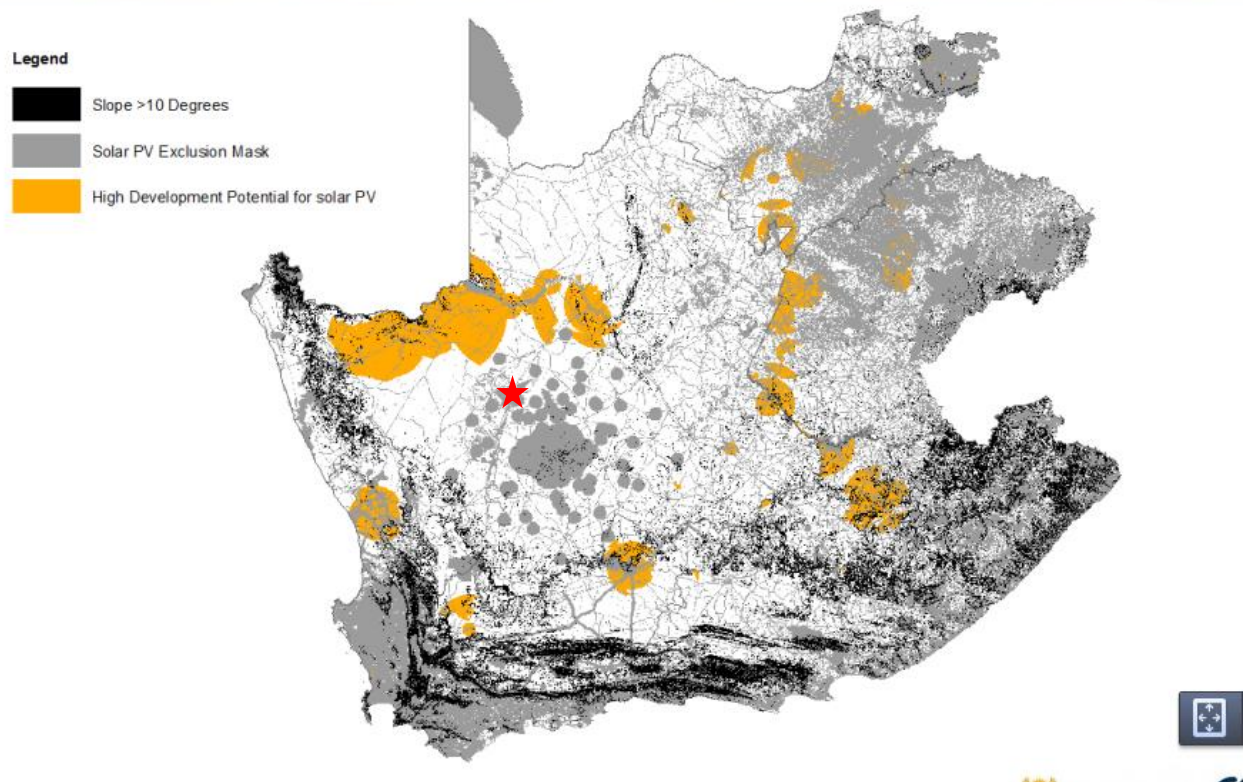


Figure 1: Source - SEA www.csir.co.za & DEA

Figure 2 below is extracted from the CSRI & DEA SEA. It illustrates the Pofadder potential development area in relation to the approved site (red star). Clearly the site is outside of the area amongst exclusion mask criteria.



Figure 3: SKA Astronomy Reserve

We are very concerned that the approach of three separate EIA's is not presenting the full impact of the entire scheme and that the separate EIA's downplay the actual extent. As far as we understand the applications have been split in order for the developer to bid the projects as "stand-alone" projects each with their own EA under the Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement (REIPPP) programme.

Due to REIPPP requirements the NEMA principles are jeopardized and bended in the interest of the "Solar Rush" and meeting RE development targets. By splitting it, the extent of the real impacts is avoided. All impacts will multiply and the I&AP especially the community in the area does not realize this. Please ensure that the scale of the Solar Farm is communicated in all the EIA reports under the cumulative impact section.

Please stipulate the findings of the NEMF, SEA, REDZ and NDM Ecological Support Area in the EIA documentation and how does this proposal fit into the long term vision of these documents.

3) Safety and security of farm communities

Currently the farming community in South Africa is vulnerable to increased crime that relates to murder and violence towards farmers and their workers. Stock theft is an ever increasing issue in rural areas especially on large farming units. The South African Police Service has confirmed that they don't have the resources to conduct pro-active visible policing in rural areas where the farming communities are the most vulnerable. As soon as rural areas are in the process of development an influx of migrant workers take place with the hope of finding work. This exposes an area to any form of unlawful actions especially if it is regarded as soft targets. Considering that this large scale development will unlock many jobs during the construction period opposed to the operational phase it is highly likely that migrant workers and their families and friend will remain behind with inside knowledge of the countryside and its inhabitants. From when the construction process starts and during the operation the developer will have to take responsibility for this increase in security risks and stock theft. In order to mitigate the impact the developer should establish a private security force to deal with this aspect over the short medium and long term. The socio-economic impact assessment needs to address safety and security and also

procurement of labour and management of migratory labour to the area. With the road network being upgrade for the development it will allow easier access into rural areas opening up the opportunity for criminal elements to thrive.

4) Adequacy of service infrastructure

The Scoping Report confirm that the development will need Approximately 10 000m³ of water per year over a 12 to 18-month period during construction, and approximately 50 000m³ of water per year may be required per year over the 25- year operational lifespan of the project.

It is further stated that “Due to the location of the site it is proposed that the project will utilise and develop its own water provision services based on the fact that these services do not reach the project site. Accordingly, construction water may need to be sourced from municipal supply (by truck or via pipeline) or groundwater abstraction.”

As per interest group meeting it was confirmed that there is no need to abstract groundwater and that water will be supplied from Kenhardt more than 70 km from the development. This contradicts the Scoping Report statement. Please clarify this by confirming the water supply and if the pipeline that is proposed has a valid Environmental Authorisation in place and also provide the I&AP's with an updated written confirmation from the Municipality that there is capacity to supply this water.

Without a valid or approved water supply the project is not sustainable and it can't be implemented. Developed areas closer to water, major roads, airstrip and infrastructure seems more suitable for this type of development. The SEA for solar development shows that nodes closer to town centres is preferred, therefore reducing the distance that water needs to be piped and infrastructure like roads to be upgraded. The pipeline route was not assessed adequately during previous EIA's. Now the Scoping Report is silent on this matter. If water can't be sourced from Kenhardt then groundwater needs to be abstracted.

The water supply needs to be addressed as part of this EIA process and not afterwards. See procedural comments under point 5 below.

This scoping report does not clarify the scope for site access, road conditions and the proposed changes to road surface and access to the site.

5) Process issues

The scoping report refers to the requirement for certain activities to be subjected to the National Water Act (No. 36 of 1998) (NWA) and that General Authorisation and Water use licence applications will be required. The scoping report further states that “The water use authorisation process for Kotulo Tsatsi PV1 will only be completed once a positive EA has been received and the project selected as Preferred Bidder. This is line with the requirements of the Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation.”

Considering that the report as per point 4 above will develop its own supply ie. groundwater abstraction it is irrational to only address the requirements of the Water Act after the EA. The EA will be flawed if there is no guaranteed or authorised water supply on the site and if the GA or WULA is not feasible or sustainable.

DEFF has introduced the One Environmental System to address the issue of a GA or WULA being applied for after an EA is issued because without the certainty that such authorisation is possible an EA can't be executed otherwise a vacuum or expectation is created. We are of the opinion that the GA or WULA process must run concurrent to the EA process as per the norm in the EIA industry. If water supply can't be guaranteed from the Municipality and groundwater abstraction in this water scarce region is not feasible or comprehensively tested then the project

can't go ahead. Groundwater abstraction relates to a comprehensive application that require specialist input and studies that is not currently part of the scope.

If DEFF allows the three EIA's to proceed without an Water Act application running concurrent it needs to be confirmed in writing by DEFF and included in the scope in order for us to have clarity in this matter.

6) Shortcomings in Terms of Reference for Specialist

Some studies conducted in the previous EIA's were omitted from the PV1, PV3 and PV3 EIA scope. These include a geo-hydrological assessment to inform the impact on water supply, freshwater resources, drainage lines and wetlands and it's connectivity with the larger sensitive environment. The change in the traffic impact scope and the change in the socio-economic landscape especially wrt safety and security needs to be assessed. These studies need to be refreshed to address the revised application even if it means that the development will not change the impacts previously assessed. The I&AP's are looking at the application afresh and needs to understand the entire scope in order to provide comment.

All the ecological specialists need to interpret the forward planning documents (NEMF, SEA, REDZ and NDM Ecological Support Area) and ecological corridors in their scope of study.

It is interesting how the ESA corridor that runs through the middle of the site was initially ignored when the site was selected for the development of a Solar Park only to be changed as an observed corridor during the previous EIA's. Again it emphasis our reasoning, that the natural environment did not receive priority in site selection, but rather economic reasons.

When DEA highlighted in their previous rejection letter during the CSP 3 application that the development of energy generation projects must be located outside of these area, the consultants at a very late stage became creative through micro analysis and "moved" the ESA south, to conveniently exclude the preferred development footprint from the corridor and to unlocking the potential for further solar farm develop in the Solar Park. Why this "move" was not identified early in the assessments is concerning. Basically DEA (now DEFF) accepted this move and also opened the door for approval of the other applications. This action shows total disregard for the NEMF and NEMA Duty of Care.

We would appreciate it if our comments are adopted and addressed in the three EIA process for PV1, PV3 and PV4. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Kind Regards,



PAUL SLABBERT

SAHRA

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Interim Comment

In terms of Section 38(3), 38(8) of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)

Attention: Kotulo Tsatsi Energy Pty Ltd

2 Michelen Street
Vanderbilkpark, 1900

The development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) facility of up to 200MW and associated infrastructure is proposed by Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd on a site located approximately 70km south-west of the town of Kenhardt in the Northern Cape Province. The solar PV facility is to be known as Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV1.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed by Kotulo Tsatsi Energy (Pty) Ltd to conduct an Environmental Authorisation Application for the proposed Kotulo Tsatsi Energy PV 1 Solar facility near Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province.

A draft Scoping Report (DSR) has been submitted in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (NEMA) and the 2017 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations. The proposed development will include a solar PV array, inverters and transformers, cabling between project components, on-site substation, battery energy storage system, site offices and maintenance buildings, laydown areas and temporary man camp, access roads and fencing around the development with an area previously authorised for a CSP solar facility. The previous CSP EA application was commented on by SAHRA in 2016 i.e. SAHRIS Case ID 8681 (<https://sahris.sahra.org.za/cases/solarreserve-kotulo-tsatsi-concentrated-solar-plant-1>). SAHRA noted no objections to the proposed development and provided conditions for the development.

The DSR notes a Heritage Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA phase of the application process, however, states that it will be based on desktop results only and that no surveys will be conducted (page 120). It must be noted that the HIA submitted on SAHRIS Case ID 8681 shows that the current application area was not surveyed (see page 13 of the previous HIA).

Interim Comment

The SAHRA Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites (APM) unit requests that an assessment of the impact to heritage resources be conducted as part of the EIA phase of the EA application. The assessment of

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heritage resources must comply with section 38(3) of the National Heritage Resources Act, Act 25 of 1999 (NHRA). A field-based assessment of the impact to archaeological resources must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist and the report comply with the SAHRA 2007 Minimum Standards: Archaeological and Palaeontological Components of Impact Assessment Reports (see www.asapa.co.za or www.aphp.org.za for a list of qualified archaeologists).

A desktop Palaeontological Impact Assessment is required to be completed as part of the HIA as the proposed development footprint is located within an area of moderate and high sensitivity for palaeontological resources as per the SAHRIS PalaeoSensitivity map. The desktop PIA must be completed by a qualified palaeontologist and the report must comply with the 2012 SAHRA Minimum Standards: Palaeontological Components of Heritage Impact Assessment Reports. For a list of qualified palaeontologists, please see the following link <https://www.palaeosa.org/heritage-practitioners.html>.

Any other heritage resources as defined in section 3 of the NHRA that may be impacted, such as built structures over 60 years old, sites of cultural significance associated with oral histories, burial grounds and graves, graves of victims of conflict, and cultural landscapes or viewsapes must also be assessed.

Further comments will be issued upon receipt of the requested heritage reports and the draft EIA documents inclusive of appendices.

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

Yours faithfully

Natasha Higgitt
Heritage Officer
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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Phillip Hine
Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit
South African Heritage Resources Agency

ADMIN:
Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/543184>
(DEA, Ref:)