

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED KAROO  
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA  
WEST, NORTHERN AND WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

**DEA Reference Number: 12/12/20/1993**

**COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT AS PART OF THE DRAFT SCOPING  
REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 2010**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. HOW ISSUES HAVE BEEN RAISED.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 CONTACTING AUTHORITIES .....	3
3.2 NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENT .....	4
3.3 SITE NOTICE.....	4
3.4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENTS .....	4
3.5 LANDOWNER IDENTIFICATION PROCESS.....	5
3.6 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION: SCOPING AND EIA PHASE .....	5
<b>4. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REGISTER.....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 GENERAL .....	6
4.2 PROPERTY RELATED IMPACTS.....	12
4.3 VISUAL IMPACTS .....	13
4.4 NOISE IMPACTS .....	13
4.5 SOCIAL IMPACTS .....	14
4.6 ECOLOGY RELATED IMPACTS.....	18
4.7 HERITAGE RELATED IMPACTS.....	19
<b>5. WAY FORWARD .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>6. CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>7. APPENDIX A: LIST OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES.....</b>	<b>21</b>

## **1. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMENTS AND RESPONSE REPORT**

The Comments and Responses Report (C&RR) includes the comments received during the Public Participation Process undertaken as part of the Scoping Phases for the proposed project (August 2010 to November 2010). This includes responses to the advertisements, site notices, Background Information Documents (BID), meetings, written comments received and individual discussions with key stakeholders.

The Comments and Responses Report has the following objectives:

- To provide a formal and integrated record of all the issues raised by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) to date and the responses provided by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Study Team and project proponent during the Scoping Phases of the project.
- To provide a mechanism that allows all parties participating in the process (including the environmental authorities) to verify whether the issues raised have been considered and, where appropriate, adequately addressed by the EIA Study Team.

This document forms part of the Draft Scoping Report (DSR) released for public comment. This project documentation will be available during the review period from 16 November 2010 to 15 December 2010.

The C&RR would be periodically updated to ensure that the document remains updated as new issues are raised throughout the process. Upon completion of the Public Review Period for the Draft Scoping Report (DSR), the C&RR will be updated to include comments made on the DSR.

## **2. HOW ISSUES HAVE BEEN RAISED**

Issues have been raised and recorded through a variety of mechanisms. These include:

- Comments sheets received by fax, and/or e-mail;
- Comments sent to the public participation office via e-mails;
- Comments received during meetings held; and
- Comments received telephonically.

## **3. IDENTIFICATION OF STAKEHOLDERS**

The identification of I&APs was undertaken through the following mechanisms:

### **3.1 Contacting authorities**

Relevant government departments, municipalities and the affected ward councillors were contacted to inform them of the proposed project and to obtain their issues and comments in this regard.

### **3.2 Newspaper advertisement**

The formal announcement of the proposed project was done by placing an advert in the Victoria West Messenger and the Courier (local newspapers) on Friday 13 August 2010 to invite all Interested and Affected (I&APs) to register. The objective of this newspaper advertisement was to:

- Inform I&APs of the proposed project;
- Inform I&APs of the EIA procedure and the way in which I&APs could lodge any objections to the proposed development and provide comments; and
- Invite I&APs to become involved in the proposed project by registering as I&APs.

Advertisements to advertise the availability of the DSR were placed in the Victoria West Messenger and the Courier on 12 November 2010.

### **3.3 Site Notice**

Six site notice boards (A2 size) were placed at the following places on 4 and 5 October 2010:

- Five site notices in total were placed on-site. Two of these site notices were placed along a secondary road which follows the alignment of the railway line on the Farms Nobelsfontein 227 and Ezelsfontein 235. A third one was put up at the existing Biesiespoort Substation which is located on Nobelsfontein 227, and the fourth site notice was erected next to the secondary road which traverses Modderfontein 228. The fifth site notice was erected along the same secondary road traversing the northern section of the Farm Phaisantkraal 1.
- One notice was placed at the Ubuntu Local Municipality's office in Victoria-West;

In addition, A4 notices were placed at the following places in Victoria-West:

- One notice was placed at the Victoria-West Co-Operative;
- One notice was placed at the Victoria-West Library;
- One notice was placed at the Victoria-West Police Station; and
- One notice was placed at the Victoria West Post Office.

These posters included information regarding the intended project, the public participation process and contact details of the public participation consultants.

### **3.4 Background Information Documents**

The Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) on the database received Background Information Documents via e-mail and fax. In addition Background Information Documents (BIDs) were distributed at the following places in Victoria-West on 5 October 2010:

- Victoria-West Library: 30 BIDs

- Victoria-West Police Station: 15 BIDs
- Victoria-West Co-operative: 10 BIDs
- Ubuntu Local Municipality: 30 BIDs

### **3.5 Landowner Identification Process**

In terms of Regulation 56(2) (b) of Government Notice R385, the public participation process has contacted the stakeholders that could potentially be affected by the proposed development. This includes the directly affected landowners, the neighbours within 100 m of the boundary of the site, municipalities and government departments. Personalised letters, faxes and e-mails were sent to these identified stakeholders to inform them of the project and invite participation. BIDs accompanied this correspondence.

### **3.6 Stakeholder Consultation: Scoping and EIA Phase**

The public participation process has been structured in a manner that allowed for consultation with I&APs at various levels and with different focus groups, which included:

- Key stakeholder group: Ubuntu Local Municipality (meeting held on 5 October 2010);
- Key stakeholder group: Landowners (meetings held on 5 October 2010); and
- Individual discussion with property owners throughout the process.

A full list of stakeholders that have registered as I&APs is included in the document – Refer to Appendix A).

## **4. COMMENTS AND RESPONSES REGISTER**

The Comments and Responses Report includes the comments received during the Public Participation Process undertaken to date for the proposed project.

#### 4.1 General

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.1.1	What type of impacts can be expected?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The main possible impacts of a project of this nature relate to the biophysical environment such as possible impacts on avifauna, the ecology, the agricultural potential and geological (underlying soil conditions and erosion potential). Possible impacts on the social environment include aspects such as possible visual impact and aesthetics, heritage sites, social impacts and noise. The anticipated impacts will be scoped and assessed throughout the EIA process to determine the impacts of this project on the surrounding environment.
4.1.2	Would all this information be documented?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The information provided would be made available through minutes of meetings, the Scoping Report and eventually the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. It is thus critical for the representatives of the local municipality to take part in the EIA project, to study the reports that would be made

<b>NO.</b>	<b>THEME: GENERAL</b>			
	<b>ISSUE RAISED</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
				available and to provide comments on and inputs into these documents.
4.1.3	What is the timeframe of the project?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	An EIA usually takes between seven months to a year to complete. The details of specific timeframes would be communicated to the Local Municipality.
4.1.4	Where can they obtain more information about the applicant, SARGE?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Interested parties could visit their website for more information. In short he indicated that SARGE (South African Renewable Green Energy (Pty) Ltd.) is involved with different potential wind energy projects in South Africa. They sold some of their assets to the RES-group from the UK. They have five equity partners.
4.1.5	Would like to be registered as an I&AP	Reply Form Faxed: Received 29 October 2010	Mrs Barbara Brown: Central Karoo District Municipality	Comment Noted
4.1.6	He has no objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Schoeman – adjacent property owner - farm Kookfontein 226	Comment Noted

<b>THEME: GENERAL</b>				
<b>NO.</b>	<b>ISSUE RAISED</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COMMENTATOR</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
4.1.7	He has no objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Marais - adjacent property owner - Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1	Comment Noted
4.1.8	He has no objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. J. de Klerk - adjacent property owner - farm Mordant Klaassenskraal 14	Comment Noted
4.1.9	What are the impacts that can be expected?	Reply Form Faxed: Received 12 October 2010	Mr. Danie Marais – adjacent property owner – farm Taayboschfontein 15	The main possible impacts of a project of this nature relate to the biophysical environment such as possible impacts on avifauna, the ecology, the agricultural potential and geological (underlying soil conditions and erosion potential). Possible impacts on the social environment include aspects such as possible visual impact and aesthetics, heritage sites, social impacts and noise. The anticipated impacts will be scoped and assessed throughout the EIA process to determine the impacts of this project on the surrounding environment.



NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.1.10	<p>The LED Manager of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality pledges her support for the project. The project falls within the ambits of the Pixley ka Seme Renewable Energy Hub, which is a key ingredient of the District Industrialization process. It conforms with the broader vision of Rural Energy IDZ's linked to other economic development nodes i.e. Square Kilometre Array Telescope development zone extending to about 200km from the core project. This project will further give effect to the development of the N12 economic node linking Ubuntu and Emthanjeni Municipalities respectively. This project complements the Upington-DeAar Solar Corridor (Upington, Grobelaarshoop, Prieska and DeAar) envisaged by the Department of Energy.</p>	<p>Comments e-mailed: received on 25 October 2010</p>	<p>Ms. Sindisile Madyo: LED Manager: Pixley ka Seme District Municipality</p>	<p>Comment Noted</p>
4.1.11	<p>The project is aligned to the District vision with regard to diverse generation sources. The Investment &amp; Renewable Energy Conference held on 26-29 September 2010, endorsed the</p>	<p>Comments e-mailed: received on 25 October 2010</p>	<p>Ms. Sindisile Madyo: LED Manager: Pixley ka Seme District Municipality</p>	<p>Comment Noted</p>

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	<p>statement drawn from the Renewable Energy Hub Concept document which states that " Pixley ka Seme District is a part of the Karoo that is unspoilt, unpolluted environment of abundant natural resources ideal for the development of a Renewable Energy Hub. Blessed with much sunshine (solar), steady winds (wind turbines), vegetation (bio-mass) and plentiful water (hydro), it is well positioned to answer the call for more green power. It is said that the rivers of the Karoo flow underground, a fact supported by the number of wind-pumps sucking water from subterranean depths to supply livestock drinking troughs and farmsteads. However, it must be remembered that a major portion of the Orange River – over 500kms worth - flows through the Karoo. Two large dams are found along this watercourse, the Vanderkloof Dam (second largest in South Africa). The Vaal River at Douglas adds to this profusion of water, yet, in terms of a renewable energy infrastructure, these resources remain virtually untapped. The LED Unit</p>			

NO.	THEME: GENERAL			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	endorses the project without any reservations.			

#### 4.2 Property Related Impacts

NO.	THEME: PROPERTY RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.2.1	Should the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility be implemented and be extended in future, the power line from the facility would probably have to be linked to the Gamma Substation which Eskom is currently constructing. His properties would then be affected as the power line would traverse the farms to link with the Gamma Substation.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Marais - adjacent property owner - Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1	Comment Noted
4.2.2	No power lines should be erected in close proximity to his dwellings (farmhouse and guest house) and the view from these dwellings should thus not be negatively influenced. Alternative route alignments to the west of the koppies should be sought.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Marais - adjacent property owner - Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1	Comment Noted

### 4.3 Visual Impacts

NO.	THEME: VISUAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.3.1	The proposed wind energy facility would be highly visible from his property which is situated directly to the west of the proposed wind energy facility.	Comments on the Focus Group Meeting held on 05 October 2010	Mr. H. Schoeman – adjacent property owner - farm Kookfontein 226	A visual impact assessment will be undertaken which will determine any possible visual related impacts on the area and its surrounds.

### 4.4 Noise Impacts

NO.	THEME: NOISE IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.4.1	The wind farm is expected to create a lot of noise	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu Local Municipalities	A noise impact assessment will be undertaken which will determine any possible noise related impacts on the area and its surrounds.

#### 4.5 Social Impacts

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.5.1	Unemployment creates numerous problems for the Ubuntu Local Municipality as these unemployed persons become a burden for the municipality especially with regards to the provision of housing facilities to them.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu Local Municipality	The proposed project is expected to have a positive impact on the local communities as jobs would be created, in the same manner as for the existing water sourcing project on the farm Nobelsfontein. The project is expected to cost between R2.1 and R8 billion and would aim to create a Centre of Excellence. Jobs would be created during the construction, as well as operation and maintenance phases. Lower skilled and highly skilled personnel would be required. It is thus not expected to result in job losses, but create additional jobs instead. SARGE would aim to create a positive investment in the area.
4.5.2	He indicated that SARGE would investigate the possibility of assisting the community who once lived in the Biesiespoort area. Those people that stayed at Biesiespoort are now living at Hutchinson. This community could be	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	assisted with possible incentives from the project. This would, however, have to be further investigated.			
4.5.3	One of the aims of the project would be to revitalise the area in terms of job creation and infrastructure development, in other words it would focus on broad based empowerment.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted
4.5.4	SARGE aims to create bursaries for promising individuals from the community to further themselves in the field of energy generation.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted
4.5.5	During the construction phase, the project could be to the benefit of the local guest houses as some members of the construction team could be accommodated at these guest houses. This aspect could create or maintain jobs for locals in the area.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted
4.5.6	Maintenance of the roads would have to be undertaken and various individuals would be employed for maintenance of the solar energy facility (e.g. cleaning of panels / security personnel) and the wind energy facility (cleaning of blades / security personnel). This would all be	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. F. Roux: South African Renewable Green Energy (SARGE) - CEO	Comment Noted

NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	beneficial to the area with regards to employment creation.			
4.5.7	What about BEE?	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Funds are available for a BEE component. This aspect, however, still needs to be finalised to ensure that all involved benefit from the project.
4.5.8	There are various submissions for similar projects within the municipal area. The Ubuntu Local Municipality would thus have to make strategic decisions with regards to all of these applications. They would also focus on the way in which the local communities could benefit by the proposed projects.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Comment Noted
4.5.9	It is believed that "The creation of one or more Solar Parks in the country can also generate significant economic development and new employment." According to the Clinton Climate Initiative, A Solar Park is a concentrated zone of solar development that includes thousands of megawatts ("MW") of generation capacity. One or more parcels of land in close proximity are designated and pre-permitted as a	Comments e-mailed: received on 25 October 2010	Ms. Sindisile Madyo: LED Manager: Pixley ka Seme District Municipality	Comment Noted



NO.	THEME: SOCIAL IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
	<p>Solar Park. Individual solar plants developed by multiple power producers are constructed on the land in a clustered fashion and on a predictable timeline, sharing common transmission and infrastructure". This perspective on solar parks opens opportunities for clustering similar projects closer to this development as means to realise the Renewable Energy Hub.</p>			

#### 4.6 Ecology Related Impacts

THEME: ECOLOGY RELATED IMPACTS				
NO.	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.6.1	He is concerned about the possible impact on the Karoo vegetation. Sheep will not be able to graze on site which would result in limited farming activities with subsequent job losses for farmers and farm workers. Game would leave the area and hunting activities would not be able to continue which would have negative economic impacts on the social environment.	Minutes of Focus Group Meeting – 05 October 2010.	Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu Local Municipality	Game could leave the area, although the area is not known for various hunting operations and activities. Farming practices would be able to continue to some extent on the affected properties. Sheep could still graze between the solar panels and underneath the wind turbines.
4.6.2	Biophysical impact of the proposed project on the environment. Habitat disturbance of flora and fauna.	Reply Form Faxed: Received 12 October 2010	Mr. Fanie Avenant – interested and affected party	The possible impact of the proposed development on the biophysical environment will be determined by means of undertaking various specialist studies (i.e. Ecological-, Geotechnical-, Avian/Bird- and Agricultural Impact Assessments).

#### 4.7 Heritage Related Impacts

NO.	THEME: HERITAGE RELATED IMPACTS			
	ISSUE RAISED	DATE	COMMENTATOR	RESPONSE
4.7.1	Heritage impact of the proposed project on the environment. Disturbance of heritage, archaeological and paleontological sites.	Reply Form Faxed: Received 12 October 2010	Mr. Fanie Avenant – interested and affected party	A Heritage Impact Assessment will be undertaken which will determine any possible heritage related impacts on the area and its surrounds.

## **5. WAY FORWARD**

During the EIA Phase, focus group meetings with key stakeholders and representatives of the local authorities will be held, including a public meeting. The public participation process would continue for the entire EIA process.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

From the above issues and comments received the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The main concerns raised revolve around:
  - The impact on job creation of the proposed project within the area;
  - The possible visual impacts as a result of the proposed project;
  - The possible noise impacts as a result of the proposed project;
  - The possible heritage impacts as a result of the proposed project; and
  - The possible ecological impacts as a result of the proposed project.
- Other issues raised include the impact on properties surrounding the site.

**7. APPENDIX A: LIST OF INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES**

**OMGEWINGSIMPAKSTUDIE PROSES: VOORGESTELDE KAROO HERNUBARE  
ENERGIE FASILITEIT GELEë OP N TERREIN SUID VAN VICTORIA WES, NOORD  
KAAP PROVINSIE**

DEA Verw No. 12/12/20/1993

**OPENBARE DEELNAMEPROSES REGISTRASIE/KOMMENTAAR VORM**

Stuur asb u voltooide registrasie/kommentaar vorm aan: **Ingrid Snyman van Batho Earth**

Faks: **012 361 1623**

Tel: **082 779 2750**

Eposl: **ingrid@bathoearth.co.za**

Pos Adres: **Posbus 35130, Menlo Park, 0102**

**Verskaf asseblief u persoonlike kontak besonderhede:**

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

DANIE MARAIS	
GROND EIENAAR (BOER)	
POSBUS 231	
VICTORIA-WES	
049 851 9402	Selfoon: 083 462 5279
049 851 9402	Vonkpos:

**Stel u belang om te registreer as 'n belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde party (B&GP)?** (Merk met X) JA   
NEE

Nota: Dit word van u vereis om te registreer as 'n B&GP om alle toekomstige inligting in verband met die Omgewingsimpakevalueringproses te ontvang.

**Verduidelik u belangstelling in hierdie projek** (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

GROND EIENAAR

**Lys u vrae, opinies of besorghede in verband met hierdie projek** (gebruik addisionele bladsye indien nodig):

Wat gaan inpak wees?

**Verskaf bykommende kontak besonderhede van addisionele persoon/e wie u beskou as potensiële belangstellende en/of geaffekteerde partye:**

Naam & Van:

Organisasie & Rol:

Posadres:

Telefoon:

Faks:

	Selfoon:
	E-pos:

**Dui u taal van keuse en korrespondensie aan** (Merk met X)

Engels

Afrikaans



(Sien omkeer bladsy vir Engels)

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED KAROO  
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST,  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1993

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS REPLY FORM**

Return completed reply form to: **Ingrid Snyman of Batho Earth**

Fax: **012 361 1623**

Phone: **082 779 2750**

E-mail: **ingrid@bathoearth.co.za**

Postal Address: **PO Box 35130, Menlo Park, 0102**

**Please provide your complete contact details:**

Name & Surname:	FANIE AVENANT		
Organisation & Designation:	PRIVATE		
Postal Address:	P.O. BOX 195 VICTORIA WEST 7070		
Telephone:	053 621 1010	Cellphone:	082 459 7579
Fax:	—	E-mail:	FANIEAVENANT@ABSAMAIL.CO.ZA

**Would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)?** YES  NO   
(please tick the relevant box)

Note: Please register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the project

**Please state your interest in the project** (add additional pages if necessary):

1. BIOPHYSICAL - HABITAT DISTURBANCE OF FLORA + FAUNA.  
2. SOCIAL - DISTURBANCE OF HERITAGE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL & PALAEOLOGICAL SITES.

**Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the project** (add additional pages if necessary):

I AM INTERESTED IN THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN TO AVOID DISTURBANCE OF THE ABOVE.

**Please provide contact details of other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:**

Name & Surname:	N/A.		
Organisation & Designation:			
Postal Address:			
Telephone:		Cellphone:	
Fax:		E-mail:	

**What is your preferred language of correspondence?** (please tick the relevant box) English  Afrikaans



(Sien keersy vir Afrikaans)



**CENTRAL  
SENTRAAL KAROO**DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT / DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY  
UMASIPALA WESITHILI SASE63 Donkin Street  
Donkinstraat 63  
Private Bag X560  
Ingxowa X560  
BEAUFORT WES(T)/ BHOBHOFOLO  
6970IFaxel / Fax / Faxe: 023 - 415 1253  
IFowuni / Tel: 023 - 449 1000  
E-mail: skdm@infoqwest.co.za

Enquiries: B.L. Brown

Reference: 18/9/4/4

Date : 29 October 2010

Batho Earth  
Attention: Ingrid Snyman  
P.O. Box 148  
Sunninghill  
2157

Fax No: 086 684 0547

Madam

**KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY**

Please find attached the completed registration form for interested and affected parties from the Central Karoo District Municipality.

We trust you will find everything in order.

Yours sincerely,

S. JOOSTE  
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

DEA Ref No. 12/12/20/1993

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS REPLY FORM

Return completed reply form to: **Ingrid Snyman of Batho Earth**

Fax: **086 684 0547**

Phone: **082 779 2780**

E-mail: **Ingrid@bathoearth.co.za**

Postal Address: **PO Box 148 Sunninghill, 2157**

Please provide your complete contact details:

Name & Surname:	Barbara Brown		
Organisation & Designation:	Central Karoo District Municipality		
Postal Address:	63 Donkin Street Beaufort West, 6970		
Telephone:	023 449 1000	Cellphone:	
Fax:	023-415 1253	E-mail:	barbara@stcm.co.za

Would you like to register as an interested and affected party (I&AP)? YES  NO   
(please tick the relevant box)

Note: Please register as an I&AP to receive further correspondence regarding the EIA process for the project  
Please state your interest in the project (add additional pages if necessary):

Please list your questions, views or concerns regarding the project (add additional pages if necessary):

Please provide contact details of other persons who you regard as a potential interested or affected party:

Name & Surname:			
Organisation & Designation:			
Postal Address:			
Telephone:		Cellphone:	
Fax:		E-mail:	

What is your preferred language of correspondence? (please tick the relevant box) English  Afrikaans



(Sien keersy vir Afrikaans)



12 October 2010

Mr. H. Schoeman  
Farm: Kookfontein 226  
PO Box 15  
Victoria West  
7070  
E-mail: diemerino@vodamail.co.za

Dear Mr. Schoeman

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED KAROO  
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST,  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
CONFIRMATION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON 5 OCTOBER 2010**

We once again thank you for the opportunity to have met with you and for your inputs received.

The background to the project and the EIA and Public Participation process was discussed. Subsequent to this, the following comments were made:

- You are the property owner of the farm Kookfontein 226. The farm is 5000 ha in size.
- You do not permanently live on the property and there are no dwellings on the property.
- You are of the opinion that the proposed wind energy facility would be highly visible from your property which is situated directly to the west of the proposed wind energy facility.
- You do not have any objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage.

This letter serves as a confirmation of your comments on the proposed project. If you are not entirely satisfied with the contents thereof, and would like to make alterations to this letter, please do so as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days after receipt of this letter.

You are welcome to contact myself if you require any additional information regarding the proposed project.

Kind regards,

Ms Ingrid Snyman

Public Participation Consultant

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE  
PROPOSED KAROO RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY**

**FOCUS GROUP MEETING: SCOPING PHASE  
UBUNTU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2010  
14H00**

**OFFICES OF UBUNTU MUNICIPALITY, VICTORIA WEST**

**Attendees**

Ms. I. Snyman	Batho Earth: Social Consultant
Mr. M. Fillis	Ubuntu Local Municipality: Municipal Manager
Mr. M.E. Kivedo	Ubuntu Local Municipality: Infrastructure
Ms. J. Piquer	Ubuntu Local Municipality: Health Inspector
Mr. H. Jacobs	Ubuntu Local Municipality: Head of Corporate Services
Mr. G. Cronje	Savannah Environmental: Environmental Consultant
Mr. F. Roux	SARGE: CEO

<b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Ms I. Snyman: Batho Earth	<p>She welcomed the attendants and opened the meeting at 14h15.</p> <p>The aim of the meeting was to provide the representatives of the Ubuntu Local Municipality with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More information on the EIA and public participation process;</li> <li>• More information regarding the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility; and</li> <li>• An opportunity to raise issues, comments and concerns</li> </ul> <p>The following project team members were introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Ingrid Snyman (Batho Earth);</li> <li>• Mr. Gerhard Cronje (Savannah Environmental); and</li> <li>• Mr. Francois Roux (SARGE)</li> </ul>
<b>PROJECT BACKGROUND</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	<p>Savannah Environmental provided a short presentation which provided background to the proposed project and environmental process required. The aim of the project is to establish a commercial renewable energy facility consisting of both a wind energy facility component (300 MW) and a photovoltaic solar facility component (50 MW), as well as the associated infrastructure on a site located ~ 34 km south of the town of Victoria West in the Northern Cape Province. The project is proposed on portions of the following farms: Nobelsfontein 227, Annex Nobelsfontein 234, Ezelsfontein 235,</p>

	<p>Rietkloofplaaten 239, Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1.</p> <p>The EIA process will be undertaken in different phases: Notification, Scoping (current), EIA and Authorisation. Possible impacts of the proposed project relate to the social and biophysical environment. These issues will be scoped during the Scoping Phase and assessed during the EIA Phase of the project.</p>
<b>DISCUSSION SESSION</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu LM	What type of impacts can be expected?
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	The main possible impacts of a project of this nature relate to the biophysical environment such as possible impacts on avifauna, the ecology, the agricultural potential and geological (underlying soil conditions and erosion potential). Possible impacts on the social environment include aspects such as possible visual impact and aesthetics, heritage sites, social impacts and noise. The anticipated impacts will be scoped and assessed throughout the EIA process to determine the impacts of this project on the surrounding environment.
Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu LM	<p>He is concerned about the possible impact on the Karoo vegetation. Sheep will not be able to graze on site which would result in limited farming activities with subsequent job losses for farmers and farm workers. Game would leave the area and hunting activities would not be able to continue which would have negative economic impacts on the social environment.</p> <p>Unemployment creates numerous problems for the Ubuntu Local Municipality as these unemployed persons become a burden for the municipality especially with regards to the provision of housing facilities to them.</p>
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	<p>The proposed project is expected to have a positive impact on the local communities as jobs would be created, in the same manner as for the existing water sourcing project on the farm Nobelsfontein. The project is expected to cost between R2.1 and R8 billion and would aim to create a Centre of Excellence. Jobs would be created during the construction, as well as operation and maintenance phases. Lower skilled and highly skilled personnel would be required. It is thus not expected to result in job losses, but create additional jobs instead. SARGE would aim to create a positive investment in the area.</p> <p>Game could leave the area, although the area is not known for various hunting operations and activities. Farming practices would be able to continue to some extent on the affected properties. Sheep could still graze between the solar panels and underneath the wind turbines.</p>
Mr. M. Kivedo: Ubuntu LM	The wind farm is expected to create a lot of noise.
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	A noise impact assessment will be undertaken which will determine any possible noise related impacts on the area and its surrounds.
Mr. F. Roux:	He indicated that SARGE would investigate the possibility of reviving the Biesiespoort area where an entire community once lived. Those

SARGE	people that stayed at Biesiespoort are now living at Hutchinson. It could be possible for them to be relocated back to Biesiespoort through the job creation element of the project. This would, however, have to be further investigated.
All	Comment noted.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	One of the aims of the project would be to revitalise the area in terms of job creation and infrastructure development, in other words it would focus on broad based empowerment.
All	Comment noted.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	SARGE aims to create bursaries for promising individuals from the community to further themselves in the field of energy generation.
All	Comment noted.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	During the construction phase, the project could be to the benefit of the local guest houses as some members of the construction team could be accommodated at these guest houses. This aspect could create or maintain jobs for locals in the area.
All	Comment noted.
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	Maintenance of the roads would have to be undertaken and various individuals would be employed for maintenance of the solar energy facility (e.g. cleaning of panels / security personnel) and the wind energy facility (cleaning of blades / security personnel). This would all be beneficial to the area with regards to employment creation.
All	Comment noted.
Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu LM	What about BEE?
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	Funds are available for a BEE component. This aspect, however, still needs to be finalised to ensure that all involved benefit from the project.
Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu LM	Would all this information be documented?
Ms. I. Snyman: Batho Earth	The information provided would be made available through minutes of meetings, the Scoping Report and eventually the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. It is thus critical for the representatives of the local municipality to take part in the EIA project, to study the reports that would be made available and to provide comments on and inputs into these documents.
Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu LM	What is the timeframe of the project?
Mr. G. Cronje: Savannah Environmental	An EIA usually takes between seven months to a year to complete. The details of specific timeframes would be communicated to the Local Municipality.
Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu LM	There are various submissions for similar projects within the municipal area. The Ubuntu Local Municipality would thus have to make strategic decisions with regards to all of these applications. They would also focus on the way in which the local communities could benefit by the proposed projects.
All	Comment noted.

Mr. M. Fillis: Ubuntu LM	Where can they obtain more information about the applicant, SARGE?
Mr. F. Roux: SARGE	Interested parties could visit their website for more information. In short he indicated that SARGE (South African Renewable Green Energy (Pty) Ltd.) is involved with different potential wind energy projects in South Africa. They sold some of their assets to the RES-group from the UK. They have five equity partners.
<b>CLOSURE</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	She thanked the representatives of the Ubuntu LM for their time and for meeting with them. Minutes of the meeting would be distributed to those that attended the meeting.
Ms Ingrid Snyman: Batho Earth	The meeting was closed at 15:15.



12 October 2010

Mr. H. Marais  
Farms: Modderfontein 228 & Phaisantkraal 1  
PO Box 181  
Victoria West  
7070  
E-mail: fitness1@lantic.net

Dear Mr. Marais

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED KAROO  
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST,  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
CONFIRMATION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON 5 OCTOBER 2010**

We once again thank you for the opportunity to have met with you and for your inputs received.

The background to the project and the EIA and Public Participation process was discussed. Subsequent to this, the following comments were made:

- You are the property owner of the farms Modderfontein 228 and Phaisantkraal 1. These two properties are approximately 10 000 ha.
- You have recently established a guest house next to your house on the farm Modderfontein 228.
- Should the proposed Karoo Renewable Energy Facility be implemented and be extended in future, the power line from the facility would probably have to be linked to the Gamma Substation which Eskom is currently constructing. Your properties would then be affected as the power line would traverse the farms to link with the Gamma Substation.
- No power lines should be erected in close proximity to your dwellings (farmhouse and guest house) and the view from these dwellings should thus not be negatively influenced. Alternative route alignments to the west of the koppies should be sought.
- You do not have any objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage.



- You have provided the consultants with the names and contact details of some of the neighbouring property owners.

This letter serves as a confirmation of your comments on the proposed project. If you are not entirely satisfied with the contents thereof, and would like to make alterations to this letter, please do so as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days after receipt of this letter.

You are welcome to contact myself if you require any additional information regarding the proposed project.

Kind regards,

Ms Ingrid Snyman

Public Participation Consultant



12 October 2010

Mr. J. de Klerk  
Farm: Mordant Klaassenskraal 14  
PO Box 160  
Victoria West  
7070

Dear Mr. de Klerk

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED KAROO  
RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTH OF VICTORIA WEST,  
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE  
CONFIRMATION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON 5 OCTOBER 2010**

We once again thank you for the opportunity to have met with you and for your inputs received.

The background to the project and the EIA and Public Participation process was discussed. Subsequent to this, the following comments were made:

- You are the property owner of the farm Mordant Klaassenskraal 14. The farm is 3 500 ha in size.
- You live on the property and you operate a guest house on the property.
- You do not have any objections or concerns with regards to the project at this stage.

This letter serves as a confirmation of your comments on the proposed project. If you are not entirely satisfied with the contents thereof, and would like to make alterations to this letter, please do so as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days after receipt of this letter.

You are welcome to contact myself if you require any additional information regarding the proposed project.

Kind regards,

Ms Ingrid Snyman

Public Participation Consultant

## Jo-Anne Thomas

---

**From:** Ingrid Snyman [ingrid@bathoearth.co.za]  
**Sent:** 25 October 2010 08:03 PM  
**To:** Sindisile Madyo  
**Cc:** Gerhard Cronje; Diana BathoEarth  
**Subject:** Re: EIA SARGE (Pty) Ltd Victoria West

Dear Sindisile Mayo

Thank you for your inputs into the project. Your comments will be included in the project documentation.

Kind regards

Ingrid Snyman  
Batho Earth  
Mobile: 082 779 2750  
Fax: (088) 012 361 1623  
PO Box 35130, Menlo Park, 0102  
E-mail: [ingrid@bathoearth.co.za](mailto:ingrid@bathoearth.co.za)

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Sindisile Madyo](mailto:Sindisile Madyo)  
**To:** [ingrid@bathoearth.co.za](mailto:ingrid@bathoearth.co.za)  
**Cc:** [pixley@telkomsa.net](mailto:pixley@telkomsa.net); [machollen Jack](mailto:machollen Jack); [Sharon Plaatjies](mailto:Sharon Plaatjies); [Martin Fillis](mailto:Martin Fillis)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 25, 2010 3:38 PM  
**Subject:** EIA SARGE (Pty) Ltd Victoria West

Good day, Ms Ingrid Snyman

I hereby pledge support for the project in my capacity as LED Manager of Pixley ka Seme District Municipality. The project falls within the ambit of the Pixley ka Seme Renewable Energy Hub, which is a key ingredient of the District Industrialization process. It conforms with the broader vision of Rural Energy IDZ's linked to other economic development nodes i.e. Square Kilometre Array Telescope development zone extending to about 200km from the core project. This project will further give effect to the development of the N12 economic node linking Ubuntu and Emthanjeni Municipalities respectively. This project complements the Upington-DeAar Solar Corridor (Upington, Grobelaarschoop, Prieska and DeAar) envisaged by the Department of Energy. It is believed that "The creation of one or more Solar Parks in the country can also generate significant economic development and new employment." According to the Clinton Climate Initiative, A Solar Park is a concentrated zone of solar development that includes thousands of megawatts ("MW") of generation capacity. One or more parcels of land in close proximity are designated and pre-permitted as a Solar Park. Individual solar plants developed by multiple power producers are constructed on the land in a clustered fashion and on a predictable timeline, sharing common transmission and infrastructure". This perspective on solar parks opens opportunities for clustering similar projects closer to this development as means to realise the Renewable Energy Hub. The project is aligned to the District vision with regard to diverse generation sources. The Investment & Renewable Energy Conference held on 26-29 September 2010, endorsed the statement drawn from the Renewable Energy Hub Concept document which states that " Pixley ka Seme District is a part of the Karoo that is unspoilt, unpolluted environment of abundant natural resources ideal for the development of a Renewable Energy Hub. Blessed with much sunshine (solar), steady winds (wind turbines), vegetation (bio-mass) and plentiful water (hydro), it is well positioned to answer the call for more green power. It is said that the rivers of the Karoo flow underground, a fact supported by the number of wind-pumps sucking water from subterranean depths to supply livestock drinking troughs and farmsteads. However, it must be remembered that a major portion of the Orange River – over 500kms worth - flows through the Karoo. Two large dams are found along this watercourse, the Vanderkloof Dam (second largest in South Africa), and the Boegoeberg Dam northwest of Prieska. The Vaal River at Douglas adds to this profusion of water, yet, in terms of a renewable energy infrastructure, these resources remain virtually untapped. The LED Unit endorses the project without any reservations.

Regards

Sindisile Madyo  
LED Manager  
Pixley ka Seme District Municipality  
Cell:084 6730997  
Office: 053 6310891  
email: [excellentsolutions@live.co.za](mailto:excellentsolutions@live.co.za)  
cc: [pixley@telkomsa.net](mailto:pixley@telkomsa.net)

--

This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by **Pinpoint Securemail**, and is believed to be clean.