

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY FACILITIES ON FARM KLIPGATS PAN NEAR COPPERTON, NORTHERN CAPE

NOVEMBER 2013



PLANTS	DEA REF NO	NEAS REF NO	PLANTS	DEA REF NO	NEAS REF NO
PV2	14/12/16/3/3/2/486	DEAT/EIA/0001766/2013	PV6	14/12/16/3/3/2/490	DEAT/EIA/0001770/2013
PV3	14/12/16/3/3/2/487	DEAT/EIA/0001767/2013	PV7	14/12/16/3/3/2/491	DEAT/EIA/0001771/2013
PV5	14/12/16/3/3/2/489	DEAT/EIA/0001769/2013			

UPDATE OF DRAFT TO FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

This Update Page describes the process followed since the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) was made available to Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) for a 40-day comment period from 27 September 2013. It also highlights the changes that have been made to the Draft EIAR in response to the public participation process, and briefly reiterates the next steps in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Process since the lodging of the Draft EIAR

The process since the lodging of the Draft EIAR has been as follows:

- The Draft EIAR was made available to the public in Prieska (Elizabeth Vermeulen) Public Library, Ietznietz Guest House in Copperton and on the Aurecon website (www.aurecongroup.com - change "Current Location" to "South Africa" and follow the Public Participation link) from 27 September 2013 until 5 November 2013.
- All registered I&APs were informed of the lodging of the Draft EIAR for public comment by means of a letter in English and Afrikaans (see **Annexure B**).
- Authorities were also provided with copies of the report for review.
- Two comments were received on the Draft EIAR during this period and have been responded to in a Comments and Response Report (see **Annexure B**).

Updating of the DEIAR to the FEIAR

A limited number of changes were made to the Draft EIAR. Information that has been added has been underlined, while information that is no longer applicable has been removed/ deleted. To assist readers, the most significant changes are outlined below.

General changes to the Draft EIA Report to produce the Final report:

A number of minor changes were made to the Report which includes:

- The Draft EIA Report has been updated and is now called: "Proposed PV Facilities on Klipgats Pan farm near Prieska, Northern Cape. Final EIA Report.
- Grammatical and typographic changes.

Other changes to the report are as follow:

- The footprints of PV2 and PV3 have been revised to exclude a calcrete ridge (see Section 5.5) which is considered to be of high archaeological sensitivity. As a result the

significance ratings of potential impacts have been reduced to Low (-) without mitigation and Very Low (-) with mitigation.

- Additional mitigation measures for potential impacts on heritage resources have been included in Section 5.5.3.
- Section 5.12 on potential dust impacts has been updated to include an additional mitigation measure.
- Figures 3-8 was updated to include heritage sites requiring mitigation.
- Figure 3-11 was updated to include an additional proposed solar energy facility in the Copperton area.

Annexures have been updated as follow:

Comments on the Draft EIA Report and proof of the PPP have been included in **Annexure B**

- The Life-cycle Environmental Management Plan (LEMP) has been updated with additional mitigation measures included in the Final EIAR.
- The sensitivity maps in the LEMP have been updated with the new layout for PV2 and PV3.

Way forward

These Update Pages have been sent to all registered I&APs on the database. The Final EIAR has been made available to the public at the same venues as the Draft EIAR, as well as on Aurecon's website (www.aurecongroup.com - change "Current Location" to "South Africa" and follow the Public Participation link) from **22 November 2013 until 12 December 2013**.

The Final EIAR was submitted to the competent authority, namely the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for their consideration and review on 19 November 2013. DEA have 14 days to accept or reject the Final EIAR after which they will review the report (together with the CRR) over a period of 60 days. The DEA will then either:

- Accept the Final EIAR;
- Notify the applicant that the report has been referred for specialist review;
- Request the EAP to make such amendments to the Report as the competent authority may require; or
- Reject the report if it does not materially comply with the EIA Regulations.

If the report is accepted, the DEA must within 45 days:

- Grant authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity applied for; or
- Refuse authorisation in respect of all or part of the activity.

Once DEA issues their decision on the proposed project, all registered I&APs on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the decision within 12 calendar days of the Environmental Authorisation having been issued. Should anyone (a member of public, registered I&AP or the Applicant) wish to appeal DEA's decision, a Notice of Intention to Appeal in terms of Chapter 7 of the EIA Regulations (Government Notice No. 543) in terms of NEMA must be lodged with the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs within 20 calendar days of the decision being issued and the substantive Appeal must be lodged within 30 days of the Notice.

Aurecon would like to thank all those who have participated in this EIA process thus far.