



**SUSTAINABLE
FUTURES ZA**

09 August 2012

Dear Stakeholder

**PROPOSED MAINSTREAM WIND AND SOLAR RENEWABLE ENERGY
FACILITY ON A SITE SOUTHWEST OF POFADDER, NORTHERN CAPE
PROVINCE**

DEA Ref No. 14/12/16/3/3/2/348 (Wind)

14/12/16/3/3/2/347 (Solar)

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

South Africa Mainstream Renewable Power Development (Pty) Ltd (Mainstream) is proposing to establish a commercial renewable energy facility consisting of both a wind energy facility component and a photovoltaic solar facility component, as well as associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 22 km south-west of Pofadder in the Northern Cape Province. Based on a pre-feasibility analysis and site identification processes undertaken by Mainstream, a favourable area has been identified for consideration and evaluation through an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The project is proposed on the following farms: Portions 1 and Remaining Extent of Farm 209 (Poortje) and Portions 1 and 2 of Farm 212 (Namies South). The site proposed for the facility falls within the Khai-Ma Local Municipality. A broader area of approximately 175 km² is being considered within which the facility is to be constructed.

The proposed facility would comprise of a combination of the following technologies:

- » Up to **500 wind turbines (each turbine between 1.5 MW – 4MW in capacity)**.
- » An array of either **photovoltaic panels (PV)** or **concentrated photovoltaic panels (CPV)** with a generating capacity of up to 250MW.

Other **infrastructure** associated with the facility will include:

- » Foundations to support both the turbine towers as well as the PV panels;
- » Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical;
- » A 400 kV substation and 4 (four) satellite 132 kV substations to facilitate grid connection via a loop-in loop-out connection to the existing Eskom Aggenys-Aries 400kV power line which traverses the site;
- » Internal access roads; and
- » Workshop area for maintenance and storage.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

In terms of sections 24 and 24D of the National Environmental Management Act (No 107 of 1998), as read with the EIA Regulations of GN R543 - R546, a Scoping and EIA process is required to be undertaken for the proposed project. The project has been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs under Application Reference Numbers **14/12/16/3/3/2/348 (wind)** and **14/12/16/3/3/2/347 (solar)**.

The project requires authorisation from the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) (in consultation with the Northern Cape Department of Environment and Nature Conservation (DENC)) for the construction and operation of the proposed renewable energy facility. In order to obtain authorisation, comprehensive, independent environmental studies must be undertaken in accordance with the EIA Regulations.

AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT SCOPING REPORT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

In accordance with the EIA Regulations, a Draft Scoping Report will be available for public review and comment by Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) and stakeholders. You will be informed on the 30-day public review period which will occur in August 2012. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

Please submit your comments to
Shawn Johnston of Sustainable Futures ZA PO Box 749, Rondebosch, Cape Town, 7701 Fax: 086 510 2537 E-mail: swjohnston@mweb.co.za

PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Thursday, 23 August 2012

Time: 18:00 -19:30

Place: Blyvooruitsig Community Hall Pofadder

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require additional information and/or clarification regarding the proposed project. Our team welcomes your participation and looks forward to your involvement throughout this process.

Yours sincerely,
Shawn Johnston
Process Facilitator