

30 July 2018

Dear Stakeholder

**BASIC ASSESSMENT AND
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

**MOEDING SOLAR PV FACILITY,
NORTH WEST PROVINCE**

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Moeding Solar (Pty) Ltd is proposing the development of a photovoltaic (PV) solar energy generation facility, and associated infrastructure on a site situated approximately 8km south of Vryburg. The facility is known as the Moeding Solar PV Facility and will be located within the Naledi Local Municipality and within the greater Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality in the North West Province. The project site is also located within Zone 6 of the Renewable Energy Development Zones (REDZ), which is known as the Vryburg REDZ.

The solar energy facility is proposed to be developed on the Portion 1 of the Farm Champions Kloof 731, Portion 4 and the Remaining Extent of Portion 3 of the Farm Waterloo 730. The facility will include multiple arrays (static or tracking) of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels with a contracted capacity of up to 100MW. The development footprint for the facility is anticipated to be approximately 300ha in extent.

Infrastructure associated with the solar energy facility will include:

- » Arrays of PV panels (either a static or tracking PV system) with a contracted capacity of up to 100MW.
- » Mounting structures to support the PV panels.
- » Cabling between the project components, to be laid underground where practical.
- » On-site inverters to convert the power from a direct current to an alternating current
- » An on-site substation to facilitate the connection between the solar energy facility and the Eskom electricity grid.
- » A new 132kV power line between the on-site substation and the Eskom grid connection point.
- » Battery storage with up to 6 hours of storage capacity.

- » Offices and workshop areas for maintenance and storage.
- » Temporary laydown areas.
- » Internal access roads and fencing around the development area.

The power line corridor will be situated within the Remaining Extent of the Farm Rosendal 673, Portion 4 and the Remaining Extent of Portion 3 of the Farm Waterloo 730. Two grid connection alternatives are being considered:

- » Direct connection to the existing Mookodi Main Transmission Substation located on the northern portion of the project site.
- » A turn-in turn-out connection into the Mookodi - Magopela 132kV power line (to be constructed along the eastern boundary of the project site).

It is the developer's intention to bid the Moeding Solar PV Facility under the Department of Energy's (DoE) Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement (REIPPP) Programme. The power generated from the project will be sold to Eskom and will feed into the national electricity grid. The development of the project will also assist with the achievement of the electricity goals as set out in the Integrated Resource Plan.

BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The development of the Moeding Solar PV Facility requires that an application for Environmental Authorisation (EA) be submitted to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) as the Competent Authority (CA), in accordance with the National Environmental Management Act (No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the provisions of the 2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, as amended on 07 April 2017, published in GNR 324 to GNR 327. The North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) is the Commenting Authority for this application.

The procedure to be followed in applying for environmental authorisation for a large-scale project in a REDZ was formally gazetted on 16 February 2018 (in GN113 and GN114). As the project is located within one of the eight REDZ areas, the Moeding Solar PV Facility is now subject to a Basic Assessment and not a full EIA process, as well as a shortened timeframe of 57 days for the processing of an Application for Environmental Authorisation by DEA.

Savannah Environmental (Pty) Ltd has been appointed as the independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP), responsible for undertaking the impact assessment process (Basic Assessment) to identify and assess all potential environmental impacts associated with the project for the area as identified. The Basic Assessment process will also recommend appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for the project. As part of the Basic Assessment process, Interested and/or Affected Parties (I&APs) will be actively involved through the public participation process.

The department and/or the organisation which you represent has been identified as a commenting authority for the proposed Moeding Solar PV Facility. In this regard, please can you provide us with

the name and contact details of the relevant contact person at your department who we would liaise with regarding this project. By registering on the project database, you will receive all information relating to the project and will be provided with an opportunity to provide comment and input into the BA process.

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.

Kind regards

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