

14 June 2013

Dear Stakeholder

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

WATERSHED SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES NEAR LICHTENBURG, NORTH WEST PROVINCE NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

FRV Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd is proposing to establish a commercial photovoltaic solar energy facility of up to 150 MW in capacity, as well as associated infrastructure on a site located approximately 6 km north west of Lichtenburg, North West Province. The project is known as the **Watershed Solar Energy Facility**. The project will be developed in two development phases. Each phase will have an electricity export capacity of up to 75MW and will be referred to as follows:

- » Watershed Phase I Solar Energy Facility, North West Province
- » Watershed Phase II Solar Energy Facility, North West Province

Based on a pre-feasibility analysis and site identification processes undertaken by FRV Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd, a favourable sites has been identified for consideration and evaluation through an environmental impact assessment process. Each facility will have an electricity export capacity of up to 75MW and include the following infrastructure:

- » Arrays of photovoltaic (PV) panels
- » Mounting structure to be either rammed steel piles or piles with pre-manufactured concrete footings to support the PV panels.
- » Cabling between project components, to be laid underground where practical.
- » A new on-site substation to evacuate the power from the facility into the Eskom grid.
- » A new overhead power line looping in and out of to an existing Eskom line that runs from the Watershed Substation east of the R505, approximately parallel to the southern periphery of the selected property.
- » Internal access roads and fencing.
- » Workshop area for maintenance, storage, and offices.

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The sites for the two solar energy facilities are located on portion 1, 9 and 10 of the farm Houthaalbomen, within the Ditsobotla Local Municipality.

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In terms of the EIA Regulations of June 2010 (Government Notice 544, 545 and 546) published in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA; No. 107 1998), the construction of the two proposed solar energy facilities are listed activities requiring environmental authorisation. In terms of this legislation, a power generation facility with an export capacity of 20MW or more, and which occupies an area of more than 20ha requires the undertaking of an Environmental impact Assessment process. The projects have been registered with the National Department of Environmental Affairs under Application Reference Numbers:

- » Watershed Phase I Solar Energy Facility - **DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/556**
- » Watershed Phase II Solar Energy Facility - **DEA Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/2/557**

The EIA process comprises two phases – i.e. Scoping and Impact Assessment - and involves the identification and assessment of environmental impacts through specialist studies, as well as public participation. Note that one EIA process will be undertaken for the two phases on the project.

FRV Energy South Africa (Pty) Ltd has appointed **Savannah Environmental**, as the independent environmental consultants, to undertake the required Scoping and Environmental Impact Assessment to identify and assess all the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project, and proposes appropriate mitigation and management measures in an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr). As part of these environmental studies, I&APs will be actively involved through the public involvement process also being undertaken by Savannah Environmental.

To obtain further information and register on the project database, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project to the contact person below. Comments can be made as written submission via fax, post or e-mail.

Please submit your comments to
Gabriele Wood of Savannah Environmental PO Box 148 Sunninghill, 2157 Fax: 086 510 684 0547 E-mail: gabriele@savannahsa.com

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,

Gabriele Wood
Process Facilitator